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Army secretary says policy has been reviewed, upheld

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Army Reserve Capt. DeLisa Stiles was transformed into "The Swan" on Fox's makeover show.



Soldier to 'Swan'

Army captain regains confidence, femininity through TV makeover odyssey

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Military

Air Force investigation: A two-star general recently dismissed as the Air Force's top military lawyer for engaging in "unprofessional relationships" with female subordinates will be retired at the rank of colonel, costing him an estimated \$900,000 in future retirement pay, officials said Monday.

The decision was announced by Air Force Secretary James G. Roche, who said Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Fiskus, the former Judge Advocate General of the Air Force, will retire effective Feb. 1.

In its investigation of Fiskus, the Air Force Inspector General substantiated three categories of allegations: unprofessional relationships with female subordinates, inappropriate sexual advances toward female subordinates, and improper relationships with female civilians. The incidents happened over a 10-year period and involved 13 women, the Air Force statement said.

Military policy questioned: The number of Arabic linguists discharged from the military for violating its "don't ask, don't tell" policy is higher than previously reported, according to records obtained by a research group.

The group contends the records show that the military—at a time when it and U.S. intelligence agencies don't have enough Arabic speakers—is putting its anti-gay stance ahead of national security.

Between 1998 and 2004, the military discharged 20 Arabic and six Farsi speakers, according to Department of Defense data obtained by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military under a Freedom of Information Act request.

World

Ukraine election dispute: The campaign of Viktor Yanukovich, officially the loser of Ukraine's presidential election, delivered several hundred volumes of documents to the Supreme Court on Friday in another attempt to overturn the vote.

But pro-Western winner Viktor Yushchenko indicated he was confident the court will reject the appeal, ordering his supporters to remove their tent camp in downtown Kiev.

City authorities have repeatedly urged the removal of the tents, concerned about declining sanitary conditions.

States

Skakel murder conviction: Lawyers for Michael Skakel argue that the Kennedy cou-



BO FLANNAGAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

As part of sea trials conducted Thursday in the western Pacific Ocean, crash-and-salvage personnel connect rigging cables to a training skeleton of an F-14 Tomcat prior to hoisting the aircraft during a flight-deck fire drill aboard the USS Kitty Hawk.

in convicted of bludgeoning a 15-year-old neighbor when he was a teen should be set free because authorities waited too long to prosecute him.

Skakel's lawyers argue that state law at the time Martha Moxley was killed in 1975 set a five-year limit for prosecution of all cases except those that could carry the death penalty. Skakel was not charged with a capital offense in 2000.

Arguments on Skakel's appeal were scheduled Friday morning before the state Supreme Court. The high court was not expected to rule Friday.

"Dimebag" Darrell Abbott shooting: The gunman who killed a heavy metal guitarist and three others last month fired 15 shots and had 35 more rounds of ammunition when a police officer fatally shot him, authorities said.

Nathan Gale, 25, of Marysville, Ohio, shot and killed former Pantera guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three others when they tried to intervene during a concert Dec. 8 at the Alrosa Villa nightclub in Columbus.

Investigators said Thursday they believe Gale fired 10 shots, reloaded and fired five more before Officer James Niggemeyer killed him.

Logging injunction: An appeals court Thursday lifted its injunction barring salvage logging from the site of the nation's worst wildfire in 2002—an issue that has pitted environ-

mentalists against the timber industry and Bush administration.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided a lower court judge did not abuse his discretion when he refused to stop salvage logging on old-growth forest in the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest in southwestern Oregon.

Six timber sales amounting to 47 million board feet were conducted in the area and brought \$2 million.

Lifting the preliminary injunction "will allow us to move forward with economic recovery and restoration of the land," said forest supervisor Scott Conroy.

The appeal of the lower court's ruling will be heard March 22.

Execution ethics: A Kentucky medical board dismissed an ethics complaint Thursday against Gov. Ernie Fletcher, saying he was acting as a head of state rather than a trained physician when he ordered a killer's execution.

In a unanimous decision, a panel of the Kentucky Medical Licensure Board found "no merit" in the claim that it was unethical for Fletcher to sign a death warrant because he is a doctor.

American Medical Association guidelines prohibit doctors from participating in executions. Kentucky law says doctors must follow the AMA ethics guidelines.

Stories from wire reports

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Am transformation takes glamorous turn

Reservist endures emotional journey to be crowned Fox's 'The Swan'

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Basic training might have been tough. Deployment was no picnic. But Capt. DeLisa Stiles met her most challenging physical and emotional tests on a hit TV show on the Fox network.

Tummy-tuck, eye lift, brow lift, breast augmentation: Stiles endured those surgeries and more to become "The Swan," and winner of the Fox makeover show of the same name.

For the first few days after the surgeries, Stiles said, with her eyes swollen to slits and much of her body quite tender, "it was intense," she said. But the 32-year-old Army reservist and reality-show contestant gritted her soon-to-be Zoom-bleached teeth, and her military training kicked in.

"I said to myself, 'You chose this, and you've just got to stick it up,'" she said in an interview recently.

Stiles, the only contestant to receive divorce papers during the show, did indeed suck it up, and went on to win the beauty pageant that is the show's culmination, and, with it, some \$300,000 in cash and (mostly) prizes and a \$100,000 gig as Nutri-System diet company's new spokeswoman. Even if she hadn't won, she said, her willingness to open up her life and her perceived deficiencies to 8 million TV viewers would have been worthwhile.

"I think the TV show was actually helpful," she said. "It held up a mirror to me — Is this what you really want to see?"

Sixteen women were chosen for the show and the surgeries from more than 300,000 letters sent to producers. Eight plus a "wild card" from the dismissed women competed in the pageant. Celebrity judges picked Stiles as the Swan.

A psychologist in civilian life, Stiles would have been facing a much different challenge if a medical problem hadn't sent her back from Kuwait to Fort Riley, Kansas. Assigned to the 468th Quartermaster Battalion in Dallas, Texas, she'd been "cross-leveled" into the 1011th Quartermaster Company out of Independence, Kansas — with orders, along with 120 reservists she'd never met, to deploy to Iraq. Stiles made it to Kuwait in 2003 before a blood clot in her arm returned her state-side. "I have such mixed feelings," she said, about missing that tour of duty.

She was put on blood thinners in preparation to join her unit but when she was cleared to go, she was told that because the unit had less than 90 days remaining in Iraq, she wasn't going anywhere.

She saw the first season of "The Swan" while she recuperated at Fort Riley, and decided to try to get on the show's next season. "I mailed hideous pictures of me in my underwear, and they called me for a casting call," she said. "It wasn't just her looks that Stiles thought could use an upgrade. It was also the way she lived her life — apparently confident, but full of self-doubt. She thought the show's producers and its viewers might respond to that, she said. She was right."

The troubled marriage, the false bravado — they thought women could really relate to that," Stiles said. "Women try to be tough and we're filled with self-doubt and we don't want anyone to see that."

Stiles and raised doubts about her inclusion in junior ROTC when she was 17, although she didn't come from a military family. "I felt like it was an important way for me to serve my country," she said. She spent months in Saudi Arabia during the first Iraq war, her quartermaster unit about 50 miles away from any intense fighting.



Courtesy of Fox

Amanda Byram, left, crowns Capt. DeLisa Stiles as "The Swan" on the second season finale of Fox's reality television series on Dec. 20. After a grueling four months filled with surgeries and a divorce, Stiles left the pageant with \$300,000 in cash and prizes.

After Desert Storm, Stiles went to college, joined senior ROTC, and eventually got a master's degree in psychology and her commission. But, she told the show's producers, she felt that being in the military had taken a toll on her femininity.

"I just felt like I had this great assertive side, (and the military) taught me to be firm," she said. "But it didn't teach me to be more diplomatic, and to be sort of soft and yielding."

And while she said others viewed her as capable and even daring, she didn't feel that way about herself. "I always chose the safe path," she said, on her femininity.

In addition to the cosmetic surgery and dentistry, contestants on "The Swan" also must follow special diets, engage in rigorous workout programs and have counsel-

ing sessions with both a therapist and a "life coach," who happens to be the Los Angeles-based show's creator and executive producer.

They go through a four-month process of transformation during the show — without contact from their families save some brief phone calls — with their heartaches, frustrations and surgeries laid out for some 8 million viewers.

Stiles, for example, got divorce papers from her husband during the show. Although it was not unexpected — their eight-year marriage had been rocky, she said, and she'd been gone for more than a year — it was still very difficult, especially because it was so public. And yet, she said, "It was a really supportive environment. I had a team of people pulling for me."



Photo courtesy DeLisa Stiles

Stiles before her makeover. Now physically transformed after multiple cosmetic surgeries, Stiles says, "I feel like I look the way I always should have looked."

As the show progressed, some of the women went home, surgically enhanced but out of the Miss America-style competition for cash and prizes. Stiles was crowned "The Swan" because she was the one judged to have been most changed and improved.

The show, which is coming up on its third season, has been criticized as tasteless or offensive for encouraging women to undergo painful surgeries to conform to a beauty ideal, and then to compete to see who's best.

But Stiles said none of the women had any regrets, as far as she knew, and neither did she. She maintains that her biggest change was emotional, in that she became comfortable taking risks. And as for her new look? "I feel like I look the way I always should have looked," she said.

She did have concerns that some in the military might think that being on the show was inappropriate for a U.S. military officer, but so far, she said, she's only received good reviews. One e-mail, Stiles said, read "Way to go, Ma'am. Show them we've got really beautiful women in the Army."

Capt. Tyronne Hines, a fellow member of the 468th Quartermaster Battalion said that nearly everyone there had heard about Stiles' success on the show — although he said he hadn't watched it — and that most everyone found her quite fortunate and wished her well. Stiles' commander could not be reached for comment.

Stiles said she doesn't know if people in her unit will treat her differently now.

"My military record and the way I conduct myself is going to speak for itself," she said. "I won't be wearing false eyelashes. I won't be so glamorous."

Well, maybe, maybe not. Stiles has about seven years before retirement from the Reserves, and she said she's happy as a quartermaster. "Bombs and bullets: The Army can't do without them."

Still, what she'd really love to do is go on a USO tour, she said. Most women on USO tours, such as Ann-Margret, tend to glam it up.

Said Stiles, "I know what it's like to be deployed, to have these outrageous hardships and just have it be your life."

"I'd love to meet the commander in chief," she added. "Do you think it would be inappropriate to hug the president?"

Misawa suffers spike in accidents

Drivers cautioned to beware of wintry mix

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Winter is turning out to be the season of the fender bender at this northern Japan base.

Since December, more than 100 vehicle accidents involving Defense Department-licensed drivers have been reported on and off base, with motorists following too close or driving too fast on icy roads as factors in many.

"Driving too fast for conditions is the leading cause," said Master Sgt. Adam Martinez, 35th Fighter Wing ground support manager.

In December alone, there were nine major vehicle wrecks and 70 minor.

Of the major accidents, seven were off base, where roadways are plowed less often and mounds of packed snow and ice build up between tire tracks. Snow and ice was a factor in six of those wrecks, according to 35th Security Forces Squadron Commander Maj. Joe Miller.

"We did have a spike in accidents last month because of the amount of snowfall that we had," Martinez said. "The temperatures have dropped, and there's ice on the roads."

It's a trend that doesn't appear to be letting up. Thirty-five minor vehicle accidents already are on the books for January, though there have been no major ones to date.



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Slick roadways on and near Misawa Air Base, Japan, have been causing major headaches for base motorists this winter. In December and thus far in January, there have been more than 100 vehicle accidents to date on base, with icy or snow-covered roads a factor in many. Though base plows clear the roads often, frequent snowfall and melting conditions during the day can combine for icy roads during morning and evening commutes.

Base officials classify major accidents as those involving one or more of the following: injury or death, at least \$10,000 in property damage, or a vehicle that has to be towed. Martinez said none of the major crashes in December involved serious injury.

Besides driving too fast for conditions, inattention while driving and backing up in parking lots have been the other leading causes of Misawa's winter fender benders this year, Martinez said.

In one 24-hour span earlier this year, there were six vehicle accidents in which drivers reported: "I began to slide on the ice," or "the car began to fishtail," or "I tried to turn and began to slide," according to Airman 1st Class John Canacho of 35th Security Forces Squadron.

Two of the accidents involved drivers trying to slow for conditions and either being struck by another vehicle or overcorrecting and leaving the roadway, he reported in a base publication.

With vehicle accidents on the rise, base officials are considering bringing back a traffic safety brochure that would be given to all newly assigned personnel and their families at Misawa's weekly newcomers' briefings.

"We used to do that in the past, but we ran out of funds at the safety office," Martinez

said. "So we posted the information on the Internet, but come to find out people like the pamphlets."

The brochures could be kept in the glove compartment and would contain information such as the Kanji translation of "I'm lost" and what tires are best in winter.

Meanwhile, Martinez and other base officials offer tips for safe winter driving:

■ Drive four-wheel or front-wheel drive vehicles, which "are so much easier to control in winter conditions than rear-wheel drive," Martinez said.

■ Snow or all-season tires are required for all base vehicles starting Nov. 15, usually through March 31 or until announced. Another option are tire chains during winter conditions.

■ Get tire pressure and tread checked at the auto hobby shop or base gas station to ensure tires are in good working condition.

■ Remember the six-second rule: Leave at least six seconds stopping time between the car in front of you.

■ Areas on base that can be hazardous in winter with black ice conditions include: Security Hill Drive, the west end of Falcon Drive between supply and the golf course, and Falcon Drive along the "concrete canyon."

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@pstripes.osd.mil

Night flights may hint at Kitty Hawk deployment

Carrier awaits word about tsunami relief

By ERIC SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

Navy planes will conduct more night landing practices at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, from Tuesday through Jan. 23 to prepare for the USS Kitty Hawk's possible deployment to South Asia as part of tsunami relief efforts.

The normal 10-day practice period required of pilots that land on aircraft carriers has been compressed to six days at both Atsugi and Iwo Jima, meaning more planes in the air between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Jets will be sent to Iwo Jima for landing practice, while Atsugi will receive quieter propeller aircraft, said Navy spokesman Cmdr. John Wallach.

"We still want to be as quiet as possible at Atsugi," Wallach said.

He could not specify the exact number of added planes at Atsugi.

Poor weather at Iwo Jima would add night landing practices at Atsugi, Misawa Air Base, Yokota Air Base and Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station.

Meanwhile, the Kitty Hawk awaits word on whether it will be needed for tsunami victims' aid.

"It's something that is definitely in the realm of possibility," Wallach said.

E-mail Eric Slavin at: slavinjp@pstripes.osd.mil

Driving course offered

Misawa Naval Air Facility safety officials are offering a driver-improvement class later this month certified by the American Automobile Association. The class is available to all base residents with a Department of Defense driver's license.

Navy officials say "this is not a learn-to-drive class, but rather an opportunity to improve your existing skills and learn new ones that can help you be a safer driver."

Completion of the class may make one eligible for auto insurance discounts in some states. The class is to be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 26 in Classroom A, Building 980. Class size is limited to 20. To reserve a space, contact NAF Safety at DSN 226-3446 or e-mail yokoyama.hiroko@nafm.misawa.af.mil.

—Stars and Stripes

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Marines deny weapon pointed at fisherman

By GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

Officials at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan, met Friday with representatives from the Kanokawa Fishery Cooperative Association and a local fisherman and apologized for any concerns that arose from a Jan. 5 incident involving a base patrol craft carrying an armed servicemember.

An unidentified boat entered the restricted zone of Iwakuni Harbor between the base and the open sea around noon that day, base officials said. An Iwakuni Surface Division patrol craft "went to investigate and document the hull number," base spokeswoman Master Sgt. Leshi Coakley said Friday.

The Japan 6th Regional Coast Guard

Iwakuni base officials meet with captain whose boat entered restricted area of harbor

Headquarters' operations center received a call from a fishing boat captain that afternoon, a coast guard press release stated. The release stated that the caller reported that "a black man on a boat" flying the U.S. flag "pointed a machine gun at him..."

Surface Division sailors operate patrol boats that can cut through the water around 40 miles per hour. When on patrol, an armed Marine security officer rides along.

"We have to do all that we possibly can to protect our air station and our neighbors," Coakley said. "The Marine patrol boat and

the fishing boat met at about 7.5 miles outside the off-limits sea zone. Nobody pointed any weapon at anybody."

The restricted area around the harbor is open to Japanese fishermen — with some conditions.

"The base has a joint agreement with Iwakuni City to let the Japanese fish in the area, and fishermen fly proper flags and pennants to let us know who they are and what they're doing," a Surface Division sailor said in a previous Stars and Stripes report.

Coakley said there was a fishing vessel in

the area and the sailors, "circled around it, got its hull number, and left. Again, at no time did a servicemember point a weapon."

The Japan 6th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters is investigating the incident, its release noted.

The Iwakuni officials met with Norinobu Yoshioka, secretary of the Kanokawa Fishery Cooperative Association, and the fisherman on Friday.

"We want to strongly convey how regrettable this incident is, and we apologize for any anxiety this may have caused," Coakley said. "We agree with the fishermen's association and our hope that such incidents will not happen in the future."

Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstrps.osd.mil



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Army won't change women-in-combat policy

Harvey says rule prohibiting duty in ground combat units to stand in 'transformed' Army

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Women will not be allowed to serve in combat positions in the new "transformed" Army, according to a decision made by senior service leaders and approved Thursday by Army Secretary Francis Harvey.

The Army has been reviewing its policy prohibiting women in combat ever since last year, when service leaders decided to shift emphasis from large, cumbersome divisions to "Brigade Combat Teams" that are much more flexible and lethal than today's organizations.

Under a 10-year-old ban, women are not allowed to be part of combat units, such as

armored cavalry or the infantry.

After reviewing the Army's existing policy, "my assessment is that, in our new Brigade Combat Teams ... no women will be assigned to a unit below the brigade level whose primary mission is direct ground combat," Harvey said in a Jan. 13 memo obtained Friday by *Stars and Stripes* to Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In addition to prohibiting women from taking jobs that are directly related to combat, the new policy also means that women will not "be routinely co-located with units assigned a direct combat mission," the memo says.

Since the new policy is the same as the Army's current Combat Exclusion Rule,

"no change to the extant policy is required," the memo says.

There is a clause in the ban, Public Law 103-160 signed by then-Defense Secretary Les Aspin in 1994, that says women are not allowed to serve "where units and positions are doctrinally required to physically collocate and remain with direct ground combat units that are closed to women."

But women are not banned from such tasks as driving trucks, working in mess halls, repairing helicopters, and other jobs that either hold the potential for enemy attacks, or require close proximity to combat units.

And because combat units cannot do their jobs without maintenance and other support assistance, "there have been sup-

port units attached to maneuver units in both Afghanistan and Iraq that include women, Army officials have noted.

Harvey reiterated that the clause will remain in effect.

But opponents of women serving in war were angered in October when Army officials said they were considering changes to the exclusion rules.

Harvey conducted "a systemic review of all Army policies" after he was sworn in Nov. 19, 2004, according to his memo.

Based on that review, and a subsequent review undertaken by Army staff, Harvey decided not to make changes to the Army's current policy.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at:
burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Graner guilty on all counts in Abu Ghraib case

BY T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Army Spc. Charles Graner Jr., the reputed ringleader of a band of rogue guards at the Abu Ghraib prison, was convicted Friday of abusing Iraqi detainees in a case that sparked international outrage when photographs were released that showed reservists gleefully torturing prisoners.

Graner, a 36-year-old reservist from Uniontown, Pa., was convicted on all of the counts he faced: conspiracy, assault, maltreating

prisoners, dereliction of duty and committing indecent acts.

Each count required that at least seven of the 10 jurors to agree for conviction.

Graner, the first soldier to be tried on charges arising from the scandal, faces up to 17 1/2 years behind bars.

The jury took less than five hours to reach the verdict.

Graner stood at attention and looked straight ahead without expression as each of the verdicts was read by the foreman. His parents, Charles and Irma Graner, who attended each day of the trial,

held hands tightly as they listened. The case next goes to the sentencing phase, which jurors said they wanted to begin Friday evening.

Both prosecutors and the defense are permitted to put on witnesses during a sentencing hearing. Graner can also testify, which he declined to do during the trial.

The verdict came after a trial in which prosecutors depicted Graner as a sadistic soldier who took great pleasure in seeing detainees suffer. He was accused of stacking naked prisoners in a human pyramid and later ordering them to masturbate while

other soldiers took photographs. He also allegedly punched one man in the head hard enough to knock him out, and struck an injured prisoner with a collapsible metal stick.

The jury of four Army officers and six senior enlisted men rejected the defense argument that Graner and other guards were merely following orders from intelligence agents at Abu Ghraib when they roughed up the detainees.

In his closing argument Friday, Capt. Chris Graveline, one of the prosecutors, recounted the abuse allegations, buttressing many with photos and video taken inside the prison in October and November 2003, to make the case that Graner took pleasure in seeing detainees suffer.

"It was for sport, for laughs," Graveline told jurors. "What we have here is plain abuse. There is no justification."



Graner

3 U.S. troops killed in Iraq

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. troops were killed Friday, and Sunni Muslim militants claimed responsibility for the assassination of a community leader who was promoting the election on behalf of Iraq's top Shiite cleric.

Attackers also fired on a bus carrying Iraqi national guard members near Baghdad, about 90 miles west of Baghdad, on Friday, kidnapping 15 Iraqi guardsmen and leaving the bus in flames, a guard official said.

Witnesses said attackers opened fire apparently with rocket-propelled grenades — on the bus and the guard members were heading to a local U.S. military headquarters.

A Baghdad guard official who identified himself only as Lt. Col. Hesham said 15 were kidnapped.

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, deputy commander of the 1st Cavalry Division controlling the Baghdad area, warned of an expected surge in bombings and other violence ahead of the Jan. 30 vote and said there were no guarantees Iraqi and American forces could stop a "spectacular" attack causing mass casualties in the capital.

"If I told you I could guarantee that, I'd be a fool," Hammond told reporters on Friday.

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Photos courtesy of the Naval Oceanographic Office

Above: Members of Naval Oceanographic Office's Fleet Survey Team, Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Gilles and Lt. Richard Kennedy Jr., collect geodetic measurements in Iraq. Right: Surveyors ready for a mission. Navy surveyors are checking out changes to the ocean floor caused by recent tsunamis.



Tsunami snarls navigation in Indian Ocean

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Last month's deadly tsunami wreaked havoc underwater too: Waves smashed navigation buoys, dragged sandbars into shipping channels, lifted reefs and other obstacles hundreds of feet in some spots and tossed debris everywhere.

Navy cartographers say navigation through the Indian Ocean will be problematic for years due to last month's violent earthquake and deadly tsunami, both of which altered normal shipping routes.

"Most of those charts have to be redone," said Steve Honda, spokesman for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. "Until we actually get out there, we won't know how much has changed."

Officials from the U.S. Geological Survey said most non-sailors won't notice the changes; typical textbook maps and reference globes don't have the area in enough detail to highlight the geographical shifts.

For more photos and stories on military relief operations, visit www.stripes.com

But for sailors and commercial ships, the changes complicate movement through the region. Honda's agency, which is responsible for the U.S. Navy's nautical guides, already has received one unconfirmed report from a commercial ship in the region that the ocean floor rose nearly 1,000 feet in an international shipping lane.

Other research has shown miles of sandbars shifted and coastlines collapsing into the sea, according to Mark Jarrett, deputy director of the Naval Oceanographic Office's Survey Operations Center.

"We've been asked to go in after hurri-

cans to check our maps, but we've never seen anything to this scale," he said.

The undersea confusion has further complicated getting aid to devastated countries, since larger ships cannot easily move into major ports because of debris obstacles. Jarrett said so far most of the supplies being moved into ruined areas have been airlifted in or transported on hovercraft-type boats, both of which are expensive.

NGA officials have issued a general warning about the potential navigation issues for ships in the region, but won't be able to offer specific route changes until surveyors can examine the area.

Jarrett said his office already has dispatched a fleet of surveyors to the region to begin rebuilding charts, especially those surrounding major ports.

Ultimately replacing markers and updating maps near the shoreline will fall to the countries affected, but U.S. personnel are now putting together initial sketches of what is in the water.

"We can tell people what debris is closing channels, what buoys are left and put in temporary markers," Jarrett said. "Eventually, this will require us to go back and completely rebuild charts. But we can do a rough survey in a day, maybe hours."

Survey crews launch from naval ships in the region on seven-foot rigid-bottom rafts, and use portable sonar devices to scan for potential hazards. Jarrett said once collected, that information can be transmitted to military personnel in the area almost instantaneously, giving them a larger view of what is below than their ships' sonar systems can.

Only eight surveyors are currently in the region; Jarrett said another ship with personnel and equipment is en route to help map hundreds of miles of critical undersea channels.

Honda said even with more personnel the process of rebuilding the navigation charts won't be finished anytime soon.

"We're talking about a process that's not days but years," he said.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

U.S. military's recovery mission keeps aid flowing

BY JULIANA GITTIER

Stars and Stripes

UTAPAO, Thailand — Combined Support Forces working on relief efforts in South Asia moved 3.4 million pounds of relief aid and flew 1,224 missions as of Friday, said Marine Lt. Col. Robert Krieg, a force planning team member.

About 19,500 servicemembers are deployed — 12,000 aboard ships — in support of Operation Unified Assistance, the massive U.S. military effort to help tsunami-ravaged South Asia.

In addition to the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group operating off the coast of Indonesia, heavy lift helicopters from the USS Bonhomme Richard and Expeditionary Strike Group 5 and assets from the USS Fort McHenry from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, continued ferrying aid to Indonesia.

Krieg also said Sasebo's USS Essex Amphibious Ready Group is en route to eventually replace the Bonhomme Richard.

In Indonesia, the hardest-hit nation, military aircraft including 40 helicopters — assisted by Marine Corps landing craft, air cushions — moved 165,000 pounds of relief aid into damaged coastal areas and finished transporting a French field clinic into the Sumatran city of Meulaboh.

U.S. Navy medics established a dental clinic and saw 100 patients Wednesday while engineers continued assessing washed-out bridges along the west coast, Krieg said.

"Nearly every bridge from Banda Aceh down to Meulaboh has been damaged or destroyed," he said. "The only way to get supplies to them is by helicopter."

U.S. officials continued planning the use of an Indonesian airstrip on Sabang Island off the Aceh coast. U.S. and other nations' military aircraft could use the airstrip to take pressure off the congested airport at Banda Aceh, Krieg said.

"There's not a lot of airports in that part of Indonesia," Krieg said. "The Banda Aceh airport can't sustain supplies needed for 165,000 people," the number Indonesian officials estimate are displaced.

In Sri Lanka, Marine engineers conducted two cleanup projects and U.S. Coast Guard C-130s arrived to assist the airlift. And in Thailand, military aircraft continued airlifting relief to aid agencies in Phuket. About 800 servicemembers currently are based at the mission headquarters in Utapao.

Krieg said operations overall are evolving from immediate relief assistance to sustaining refugees and others affected by the disaster.

The initial plan to bring four key components — water, airlift, medical support and engineer capabilities to remove debris — gradually is being adjusted through continued assessments and coordination with local governments to meet the changing needs.

Emphasis now is moving toward repairing essential infrastructure and preventing epidemics and disease. However, each of the three countries being assisted, Krieg said, has very different needs.

"It's really like we're running three separate relief efforts here," he said, adding the effort involves a list of participating countries, aid agencies and the host nations.

"It's more of a cooperation of nations," he said. "All we do is coordinate our efforts."

Meanwhile, the Indonesian government's recently announced restrictions on foreign military operations are not "impaired" by U.S. naval forces providing relief, Rear Adm. Victor G. Guillory told Pentagon reporters in a telephone session from Utapao, Thailand.

Earlier this week, Indonesia's Vice President, Jusuf Kalla, announced that foreign troops must leave the country's restive Aceh province by the end of March, while cabinet ministers set a March 26 deadline for assuming control of tsunami relief ef-

forts from international humanitarian groups and foreign military forces.

Guillory, who is deputy commander of U.S. Naval Forces supporting Operation Unified Assistance, the coordinated multinational relief effort, confirmed that the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier left Indonesian territorial waters Wednesday to conduct training missions by U.S. fighter jets that are based on the vessel.

However, such movements are "a routine procedure," Guillory said, underlining reports that Jakarta's government had refused to allow Indonesia's airspace to be used for such training.

A ship as large as the Lincoln, Guillory said, requires "a great deal of room to conduct fixed-wing operations. That's why [the Lincoln] moved away from the coast for a fixed period of time."

Guillory said that the Lincoln would return to its previous station once the flight training is over.

During the fighter jet exercise, meanwhile, the Lincoln's helicopters are continuing to fly into Indonesia to carry food and water to remote communities along the devastated west coast of that country, Guillory said.

E-mail Juliana Gittier at: gittier@stripes.osd.mil. Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report.

Aid workers warned not to proselytize in Aceh

•BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — A senior Islamic leader warned foreign relief workers Friday of a serious backlash from Muslims if they bring Christian proselytizing to tsunami-struck Sumatra along with humanitarian help.

Masked health workers, meanwhile, fanned out spraying insecticide to kill mosquitoes and prevent malaria from breaking out in Aceh province's refugee camps, where poor sanitation and contaminated water pose a health risk to tens of thousands of survivors.

At Friday prayers in the main mosque of Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, a Muslim leader warned against any attempt by Christian aid workers to evangelize among tsunami survivors.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, and Aceh is particularly conservative.

"All non-governmental organizations, either domestic or international, with hidden agendas coming here with humanitarian purposes but instead proselytizing, this is what we do not like," said Dien Syamsuddin, secretary-general of the Indonesian Council of Ulemas, or religious scholars.

He also condemned reports the U.S.-based welfare group World-Help had planned to adopt 300 Acehese children orphaned by the disaster and raise them in a Christian children's home.

The group said Thursday it had dropped the idea.

"This is a reminder. Do not do this in this kind of situation," Syamsuddin said. "The Muslim community will not remain quiet. This is a clear statement, and it is serious."

Later Friday, teams with insecticide sprayers began working in refugee camps around Banda Aceh, where the tsunami and heavy rains

have left pools of stagnant water that are perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

"Short-term, we're trying to prevent an epidemic," said Richard Allan, director of the Mentor Initiative, a public health group that fights malaria epidemics. "And it may already be too late."

Allan warned that an additional 100,000 people could die of malaria in the Aceh region if quick action wasn't taken to reduce the numbers of mosquitoes.

Other major health risks in Aceh included dirty drinking water — often from unsanitary latrines — that could give people cholera, ty-

phoid, dysentery and other water-borne diseases.

While the chances of an outbreak are diminishing as more clean water reaches survivors, the danger is not over and epidemics could erupt at any time, health experts say.

In Sri Lanka, another hard-hit nation, there were signs of resilience as more than 25,000 people left relief camps over the preceding 24 hours to return to their villages and begin rebuilding. U.N. officials said Friday. They said just over half the 800,000 Sri Lankans left homeless by the tsunami remained in camps on the island, where the waves killed 31,000.

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Some refugees desire foreign help to remain

BY BURT HERMAN

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Jordanian military doctors treat patients at a clinic inside a refugee camp, while Australian and German troops swarm around the city's main hospital making repairs. The buzz of U.S. military helicopters has become so routine it's now ignored.

Foreign troops have been a key lifeline in the tsunami relief effort — and welcomed warmly in Aceh province despite its history of resistance to outside forces. With the government now saying it wants foreign soldiers to leave by March 26, refugees say they hope the troops will stay as long as needed — provided they stick to providing aid and don't establish permanent bases.

"If they leave, we will starve," said Syarwan, 27, a tailor who is now crowded with some 45 relatives under a tarp at a survivor camp in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh.

The government request came along with new announced restrictions on aid groups and journalists requiring them to register with authorities and travel with military escorts if they venture outside the two main cities in Aceh province.

The government has said the rules are for the safety of aid workers in the region, where rebels from the Free Aceh Movement have been fighting for independence since 1976.

The long military campaign has bred distrust of the Indonesian army among locals, who complain of the corruption that would result if the tons of aid flooding into the region isn't monitored closely to ensure fair distribution.

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N. Korea says it's ready to resume nuke talks

Congressional delegation optimistic after meetings with senior Pyongyang officials

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea told a visiting U.S. congressional delegation that it is ready to return to six-party nuclear talks and offered to become a "friend" of the United States if Washington doesn't slander the rule of totalitarian leader Kim Jong Il.

The offer came shortly after the six-member bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation concluded talks with senior communist officials in Pyongyang. Republican Rep. Curt Weldon, who led the group, called the trip an "overwhelming success," and said in Seoul that North Korea appeared ready to negotiate "in a matter of weeks."

The United States, North and South Korea, China, Japan and Russia have struggled to arrange a new round of six-party talks aimed at persuading the North to abandon its nuclear weapons programs. Three prior rounds, hosted by China since 2003, made no breakthroughs.

"Our unanimous impression is that [North Korea] is ready to rejoin the six-party process," said Weldon, vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Another member of the delegation, Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel, said North Korea "essentially agreed in principle that their nuclear program has got to go."

"I think their intentions are to try to put the hostilities aside and try to negotiate a new future," he said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher expressed hope that the "North Korea statements do, indeed, presage a return to the talks."

He said North Korea has not yet been in touch with the other parties to the talks to inform them of any decision.

The delegation met with North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Yong Nam, Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun, and Vice Foreign Minister



TERI WEAVER/Stars and Stripes

A bipartisan group of lawmakers traveled to North Korea this week and made headway in persuading the communist country to resume talks about its nuclear ambitions. Pictured at a news conference Friday in Seoul are, from left, Fred Upton, R-Mich.; Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas; Curt Weldon, R-Pa.; Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md.; and Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas.

ister Kim Kye Gwan, who is also the country's chief nuclear negotiator. Weldon said the only meeting that was denied was with the country's leader, Kim Jong Il.

The North's official KCNA news agency said North Korea had assured the U.S. lawmakers that it "would opt for finding a final solution to all the outstanding issues between the two countries," and "reaffirmed its will to settle the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue and negotiations."

It said North Korea had decided to resume the six-party talks after watching the policy directions of President George W. Bush's second administration. In his 2002 State of the Union address, Bush lumped North Korea into an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq, which infuriated the North.

"The axis of evil has been mentioned before," said Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, another lawmaker on the trip with Weldon. Bush named North Korea as one of the

"evil" countries and chastised its leaders for building up arms while starving its people.

This year, "they want to hear something positive," said Ortiz, who, along with Weldon, is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and was making his second trip to North Korea in three years.

The communist country will also listen to the State of the Union speech and congressional hearings held during Condoleezza Rice's nomination process as the new secretary of state, Weldon said.

North Korean officials told the visiting lawmakers that the North "would not stand against the U.S. but respect and treat it as a friend unless the latter slanders the former's system and interferes in its internal affairs," KCNA said.

Experts say North Korea may already possess two or three nuclear bombs, in addition to fuel that could produce several

more. North Korea has said it needs a nuclear deterrent against a possible U.S. invasion.

It has frequently cited a "hostile" U.S. policy as the key stumbling block in ending the two-year standoff over its nuclear program, and has demanded that Washington provide a nonaggression guarantee and compensation in exchange for dismantling its nuclear facilities. The delegation urged the Bush administration to take a more conciliatory approach.

Asked why North Korea would be more agreeable now to disarmament, Rep. Engel replied, "I think they're looking for a way out. They're very desperate... to stay in power and they want us to show that we don't want to remove them."

The lawmakers flew from Pyongyang to Seoul on Friday to brief South Korean officials on their trip.

The delegation's trip came amid signs of a change in the Bush administration's approach to North Korea. Officials in Washington have reportedly decided to remove one of the harshest critics of Kim Jong Il, Undersecretary of State John Bolton, from Bush's next administration.

Bolton once called Kim a "tyrannical dictator," and North Korea called Bolton "human scum."

Others on the trip were: Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md.; Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas; and Fred Upton, R-Mich.

Weldon said it would be premature to say when the six-party talks might resume. In the next few days, the congressmen were scheduled to travel to China and Japan. They also planned to take 12,000 medical supplies to Indonesia to help tsunami victims there, Weldon said.

"The important thing that we broke the ice to get the negotiations going again," Upton said Friday. "It's now up to the negotiators to put it into place."

Stripes reporter Teri Weaver contributed to this report.

Probe lands on Saturn

The Associated Press

DARMSTADT, Germany — A European space probe has landed on the surface of Saturn's moon Titan after a seven-year journey, a space official said Friday, buoying hopes that the mission could shed light on the origins of life on Earth.

Mission controllers were confident the Huygens probe made a soft landing by parachute because it was transmitting steadily long after it was to have landed, said David Southwood, the European Space Agency's science director.

"We know that it has landed based on the laws of gravity," Southwood said. "It simply cannot be flying. It's got to be on a solid surface, and it must be soft."

Southwood later announced that the probe had relayed scientific data — expected to include pictures and atmospheric measurements — to the Cassini mother

ship orbiting Saturn and the information had been transmitted back to Earth.

Applause erupted at mission control in Darmstadt in western Germany as news of the data transmission. The data are expected to shed light on what Titan's atmosphere and surface are made of — and possibly on the origins of life on Earth.

"The scientific data we are collecting now shall unveil the secrets of this new world," said Jean-Jacques Dordain, ESA's general director. "This is a fantastic success for Europe."

Friday's landing makes Titan the only moon other than Earth's to be explored by spacecraft.

The fate of the mission was its 2½-hour parachute descent, during which it was to take pictures and sample the atmosphere, believed to resemble that of the Earth when it was young.



The European Huygens Probe approaches Saturn's largest moon, Titan, lower right, in this artist's rendition made available by the European Space Agency.

train in the militants.

Thursday night's bombing-and-shooting attack at the Karni crossing, Gaza's main lifeline, marked the militants' first major challenge to Abbas, who has spoken out against violence and said he would try to negotiate a truce.

Prince Harry considers Auschwitz visit

LONDON — Prince Harry, who provoked outrage by

China defends breaking up S. Korean news conference

BY MICHAEL A. LEV

Chicago Tribune

BEIJING — A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Thursday said South Korean lawmakers visiting China had no right to hold a news conference about North Korean refugees, defending the actions of a presumed group of Chinese agents who broke up the meeting between legislators and reporters at a Beijing hotel.

The raid on the news conference Wednesday has become an international incident, with the South Korean government calling in the Chinese ambassador to Seoul to protest, the Yonhap news agency said.

According to various accounts, four South Korean legislators were holding a news conference for about 40 foreign reporters at

the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel when about a dozen security agents invaded the room, turned off the lights, shut down the microphone and demanded that everyone leave. There were reports of pushing and shoving, and a standoff with the legislators ensued for hours.

The agents never identified themselves, but those involved in the incident believe the agents represented the government. China's Foreign Ministry described the agents as hotel security personnel, but a hotel spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, insisted in a brief phone interview Thursday that the agents had no affiliation with the hotel.

Kong Quan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, suggested that the news conference violated Chinese law but he did not cite a particular statute.

wearing a swastika armband to a private party, is considering invitations from Jewish groups to visit the Auschwitz death camp, a royal official said Friday.

Harry swiftly apologized for "a poor choice of costume" after royal officials learned that The Sun newspaper was about to print a picture of the prince in a Nazi uniform on his first page Thursday.

From The Associated Press

Sharon cuts contact with Abbas

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon severed contacts with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas until he acts against militants, a spokesman said Friday, a day after six Israelis were killed in an attack on a Gaza Strip crossing.

The Israeli leadership had initially said it would not retaliate for the Gaza attack and would give Abbas time to



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IN THE STATES

Calif. officials order evacuation of 800 homes

BY RYAN PEARSON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rainwater building up behind a dam prompted authorities to order the evacuation of more than 800 homes in Riverside County early Friday.

A police spokesman said he believed there was a small leak in the Prado Dam, near the town of Corona, but the Army Corps of Engineers, which operates and oversees the dam, disputed that.

"We're releasing water," said Fred-Otto Egeler, spokesman for the Los Angeles district of the Corps of Engineers. "It's being retained behind the dam, and we're making normal releases at this moment."

Officers were evacuating about 330 mobile homes and 500 other homes east of the dam, Police Sgt. Jerry Rodriguez said. The area is about 50 miles east-southeast of downtown Los Angeles.

Water was increasing behind the dam and "the dam is not able to support it, so for precautionary reasons we're evacuating the homes," he said. "My understanding is there's a leak in the dam."

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch along the Santa Ana River in both Riverside and Orange counties. An evacuation center was set up at Corona High School, and residents could be seen on television reports jamming the few streets out of the evacuated neighborhoods.

To the north, rescuers flew in food and medical supplies Thursday to more than 100 people trapped in a small Angeles National Forest mountain community by a storm-swollen river that washed out three bridges.

The raging San Gabriel River cut off ground access to the approximately 135 permanent resi-



AP

Ventura County Sheriff's Search and Rescue personnel team with California Department of Corrections prisoners Wednesday to unearth homes and artifacts from Monday's massive mudslide in La Conchita, Calif.

dents of Follows Camp, in the forest about 30 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

"We're completely separated from the rest of the world," said Lt. Tim Dowling of the Follows Camp Volunteer Fire Department. The flooding washed out half of the community's fire equipment, including a fire engine that fell into the river.

Besides flying in food and medi-

cine supplies, the rescuers also flew out a heart patient needing special medication and a 10-year-old boy who had been visiting friends when he was trapped in the camp. The series of storms that pummeled the state eased up earlier in the week.

In all, 28 deaths were blamed on the storms, including 10 killed in Ventura County's La Conchita when a mudslide buried part of the coastal community.

One trapped following an avalanche at Utah resort

BY DOUG ALDEN
The Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — An avalanche outside The Canyons ski resort Friday has trapped at least one backcountry skier, the Summit County sheriff said.

"We can only confirm one, perhaps two at this point," Sheriff Dave Edmunds said during a short news conference at a command center set up to look for the victim or victims.

Edmunds quickly discounted the report of some television outlets that reported up to 15 people had been trapped in the slide. "That is erroneous," he said.

About 30 search and rescue workers, rescue dog crews and members of ski patrols from Summit County resorts were searching the area of Dutch Draw Friday afternoon, Edmunds said.

"We are going to work this as long as it takes, whether it's a rescue or recovery operation," he said.

Life Flight helicopter was dispatched from Salt Lake City, about 20 miles away, with a report of possible victims, said LDS Hospital spokesman Jess Gemo.

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State of Texas sues duo for alleged spamming

BY BRANDI GRISSOM

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The state attorney general filed a lawsuit against a 22-year-old college student and his business partner, accusing them of illegally sending hundreds of thousands of unsolicited, misleading e-mails.

Ryan Pitylak, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, heads the fourth-largest spamming operation in the world, Attorney General Gregg Abbott said.

The lawsuit filed Thursday alleges that Pitylak and Mark Trot-

ter, his 40-year-old business partner from Encinitas, California, have been sending the e-mails since at least Sept. 1, 2003.

"We want to make clear that these defendants are suing today and any other illegal spammers in the state of Texas can't hide behind a computer screen any longer," Abbott said in filing the state's first e-mail spamming lawsuit.

Lin Hughes, attorney for Pitylak and Trotter, said her clients took great pains to make sure the e-mails were legal.

The lawsuit seeks millions of dollars for violations of the feder-

al Controlling Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003, known as the CAN-SPAM Act.

The act made illegal sending unsolicited e-mails that could mislead recipients.

The lawsuit also alleges violations of Texas laws prohibiting unsolicited e-mail and deceptive trade practices.

It asks a judge to stop LeadPlex Inc., LeadPlex LLC and PayPerAction LLC from sending e-mails.

Pitylak and Trotter began PayPerAction in 2002 and have operated the business under at least 250 different names, Abbott said.

According to the lawsuit, the e-mails contained official-looking subject lines such as "Re: your past due bills" and "Urgent: Household Loan Memorandum. Please Read." When recipients clicked on links in the e-mails, they were asked to provide personal information that Pitylak and Trotter sold to other companies for as much as \$28 per reference, the lawsuit alleges.

Pitylak and Trotter sold their interests in the LeadPlex and PayPerAction to Hong Kong-based Eastmark Technology Limited, which is also named in the lawsuit, in March, their attorney

said. Hughes said Pitylak and Trotter still act as consultants to Eastmark.

Hughes said her clients did not violate the CAN-SPAM Act. She said each e-mail contains a disclaimer indicating the purpose is to gather information and a link allowing recipients to unsubscribe to the e-mails, as required by the act.

While lawsuits against spammers won't stem the tide of e-mails flooding in-boxes nationwide, Jim Prendergrast, president of Americans for Technology Leadership, a consumer advocacy group, said it's a start.

Ga. orders a 90-day ban on First Command

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Georgia officials will bar First Command Financial Planning from selling any insurance products for 90 days for what it says is a warning not to victimize military personnel again, according to the state's insurance commissioner.

"Whenever we're talking about taking advantage of our men and women in uniform, you've got to be pre-emptive and send a strong

signal," Commissioner John W. Oxendine said this week. "We're saying, 'When you sell insurance in Georgia, you're not going to hurt our military.'"

The three-month suspension comes weeks after First Command agreed to pay an \$8 million fine and refund about \$4 million to customers who bought certain mutual funds from the firm between 1999 and 2004. Company officials did not admit to, or deny, the charges.

Federal regulators said they

had found company salespeople misled military personnel about costs and returns in First Command's systematic investment plans. The company has since stopped offering the funds.

The ruling did not involve any of the firm's insurance products. The suspension is scheduled to begin Feb. 1, and the company will be put on probation by the state for one year after that. First Command officials said they will appeal the decision.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.com

New FBI computer system found inadequate

WASHINGTON — A post-Sept. 11 computer system was supposed to solve problems for the FBI, giving agents, analysts and personnel around the world the ability to share information without using paper or time-consuming scanning of documents.

But the \$170 million Virtual Case File project has proved so inadequate and outdated, it may be shelved.

"I am frustrated by the delays," FBI Director Robert Mueller said Thursday in Birmingham, Ala. "I am frustrated that we do not have on every agent's desk the capability of a modern case-management system."

The FBI is hoping to salvage some parts of the project, known as Virtual Case File. But officials acknowledged Thursday that it is possible the entire system, designed by Science Applications International Corp. of San Diego, will have to be built from scratch.

The FBI did not get what it envisioned. The official said its capabilities were only a fraction of what was sought.

From The Associated Press



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Bush seized moment and hasn't let go

BY CONNIE CASS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tumultuous times seem to fit George W. Bush.

His presidency was off to a lackluster start in its first, quiet months before Sept. 11, 2001. After the terrorists struck, Bush told the nation, "We have found our mission and our moment."

His presidency also found its purpose. He seized the moment. He grew in stature and confidence, rising above the gibes about his intellect and a disputed election, and for a while became a living symbol of American resolve. He hasn't looked back.

Bush's responses to the attacks — declaring wars against terror at home, in Afghanistan and in Iraq — have made him a galvanizing and towering figure, not only in the United States but in the world. Few modern leaders have so shaped history by dint of their own will.

Now Bush, 58, begins a hard-won second term ready to focus more of that will on reshaping America. He is determined to "transform" — one of his favorite words — Social Security, the income tax code, the civil justice system and more.

Let history settle whether Bush was indeed the right man for the times, whether he acted with necessary boldness or brashly overreached. Either way, the times have been surprisingly right for Bush the man.

"Crisis is suited to his personality," said Erwin C. Hargrove, Vanderbilt University professor emeritus of political science. "He likes to rise to the challenge."

Bush has made hay of low expectations ever since the days when then-Gov. Ann Richards of Texas dismissed her upstart challenger as a "shrub."

Former President Clinton calls Bush allowing himself to be under-



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/AP

President Bush shakes hands with Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class George Afcalle, of Guam, during a visit to the Pentagon on Thursday. From left are Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin O'Grady, of North Brunswick, N.J.; Marine Staff Sgt. Tye Hickman, of Piqua, Ohio; Afcalle; Army Sgt. Tyesha Panda, of Cairo, Ill., and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Darrell Archard, of Glens Falls, N.Y.

estimated "this little shrub," as family friend Doug West puts it, "If they think you're dumb, good!"

In contrast to Clinton, Bush doesn't read long memos, display a thirst for detail or stay up late debating the subtleties of policy. He's more like Reagan, laying out steadfast principles and big goals and letting others work out the details.

"He doesn't talk things to death," said former aide and long-time friend Joe Allbaugh. Another friend and aide, Clay Johnson, said, "He's not a fretter."

Detractors see a glib arrogance unmatched by intellect or accomplishments: All hat, no cattle, in Texas terms.

Bush says what looks like swagger is simply the natural product of his West Texas boyhood. In con-

trast with his father's blue-blooded presidential style, the son will never be plagued by "the wimp factor."

"George Bush has by temperament and by strategy decided to be a much more aggressive president," Hargrove said.

Polls say half the public disapproves of his presidency, yet Bush plans "big things" for his final term.

And why not? In a first term won by the narrowest of margins, he snubbed the United Nations and the American allies with his war in Iraq, muscled through Congress a bill that expanded the federal government's role in education, and won three major tax cuts.

He's grayer, a bit more wrinkled, a few pounds heavier, but the office hasn't aged Bush as it does

some. Friends say he's changed remarkably little.

Known for his discipline, Bush is likely to keep his daily routine for four more years: reading about 60 pages of daily briefing material before turning in early, up around 5:30 a.m. to study the Bible, heading into the Oval Office in suit and tie around 7 a.m., daily exercise to stay fit.

Expect him to start meetings on time, or even early; offer sharp looks and tart words to any staffer foolish enough to arrive unprepared; lighten the tension with wit.

Friends say Bush relishes the job.

"Even in times that have been extremely difficult," said Texas buddy Charlie Younger, "he wakes up every morning happy that he's the president of the United States."

How well do you know the president?

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A president, a husband, a father and a sports fan — those are the basic facts most Americans could tell you about George W. Bush. How much more does the country know about his chief executive? Here's a quiz to find out.

1. What is Bush's nickname?
2. What does the W. stand for?
3. What has Bush banned from the Oval Office?
4. What three states has Bush never visited during his time as president?
5. What state has Bush visited the most? Second most?
6. The president has hosted just four state dinners at the White House. What world leaders received their first tribute?
7. What was Bush's favorite movie of 2004? Top flick in 2000?
8. Where did George and Laura Bush meet?
9. Seated in the family quarters to watch a game on television, what sport does the president prefer?
10. What does the president consider one of his hidden talents?

ANSWERS:

1. Bush's nickname is Bushie — the same nickname he has given his wife.
2. The W. stands for Walker.
3. The president has banned jeans in the Oval Office, but he often wears cowboy boots with his suits when meeting with foreign leaders.
4. Idaho, Vermont and Rhode Island.
5. Bush has visited Pennsylvania 44 times — all before he left the state on Nov. 2. The president has visited Florida 33 times, the state that decided the presidency in 2000.
6. Earning a state dinner have been the leaders of Mexico, Poland, the Philippines and Kenya, with the last dinner on Oct. 6, 2003. Bush's father held nearly 20 state dinners during his four years in office.
7. His favorite movie was "Friday Night Lights," a look at Texas high school football. In 2000, Bush's top pick was "Saving Private Ryan," Steven Spielberg's World War II epic.
8. They met at a backyard barbecue at the home of mutual friends in Midland, went on a date the next night and were married three months later.
9. Baseball, says the former owner of the Texas Rangers.
10. Bush considers his knowledge of baseball trivia a hidden talent.

First lady may get more of 2nd-term spotlight

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Look for first lady Laura Bush to get around more in a second term.

After four years of focus on early childhood education — reading to youngsters, visiting schools and recruiting new teachers — she's now talking about working with substance-abusing juvenile delinquents as well.

There'll be the customary travel to Europe and other stops on her husband's itinerary, but she longs to set foot in places off the beaten path, such as Afghanistan — she is an advocate for women's rights there — and Iraq, where her husband spent Thanksgiving 2003.

Those efforts could help make up for a first term that was overshadowed by outside events and defined at the outset by her political inhibitions.

Mrs. Bush was on Capitol Hill to make her debut before Congress testifying about early childhood learning when terrorists struck on Sept. 11, 2001. In February 2003, she canceled a literary symposium after learning some poets planned to use the White House event to protest the coming war in Iraq.

In last year's campaign, President Bush often told audiences he should be re-elected "so Laura Bush will be the first lady for four more years."

Wish granted, Mrs. Bush can be expected to step out more in the second term, especially as the president tackles some contentious domestic issues, said historian Robert Watson.

"She's a reassuring presence next to him," said Watson, a specialist on first ladies who teaches at Florida Atlantic University. "She reinforces that image that he's trying to project."

Though polls may have required it, she campaigned extensively on her own and was a popular draw, even more so than her husband.

In speeches around the country, Mrs. Bush defended the president from criticism over his education law, response to the terrorist attacks and pursuit of war in Iraq. She even stepped into the thorny debate over federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

Her address at the Republican convention marked a rare foray into foreign and domestic policy by a first lady. More than half the speech dealt with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Although Laura Bush is no Hillary Rodham Clinton, she's not afraid to let it be known when she disagrees with the husband she privately calls "Bushie."

"Days before he took office in 2001, Mrs. Bush said she didn't think the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision should be undone, despite her husband's opposition to most abortions."

Recently, she dropped hints that she may disagree with her husband's opposition to gay marriage.

"She seems to be remarkably comfortable in her own skin," Watson said. "What you see is kind of what you get, and I think people find that refreshing and comforting."



First lady Laura Bush arrives on stage for a Presidential Inaugural Ball at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington in 2001. She may play a larger role in her husband's second term.

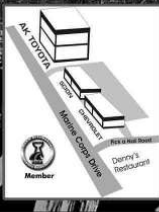


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Bush regrets some tough talk

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush says he now sees that tough talk can have an "unintended consequence."

During a round-table interview with reporters from 14 newspapers, the president, who not long ago declined to identify any mistakes he'd made during his first term, expressed misgivings for two of his most famous expressions: "Bring 'em on," in reference to Iraqis attacking U.S. troops, and his vow to get Osama bin Laden "dead or alive."

"Sometimes, words have consequences you can't intend them to mean," Bush said Thursday. " 'Bring 'em on' is the classic example, when I was really trying to rally the troops and make it clear to them that I fully understood, you know, what a great job they were doing. And those words had an unintended consequence. It kind of, some interpreted it to be defiance in the face of danger. That certainly wasn't the case."

On other points, Bush said:

■ He wants Congress to approve major

changes in the Social Security program before the end of May. Many Democrats and some Republicans in Congress oppose Bush's proposal, which may entail steep reductions in future benefits.

■ Baseball's new policy for steroids and other drugs is "a very strict policy and I want to congratulate both parties."

■ Four years as president have changed him. "They say my hair is grayer. But I come from a pretty white-haired gene pool. At least half of it."

On July 2, 2003, two months after he had declared an end to major combat in Iraq, Bush promised U.S. forces would stay until the creation of a free government there. To those who would attack U.S. forces in an attempt to deter that mission, Bush said, "My answer is, 'Bring 'em on.'"

In the week after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Bush was asked if he wanted bin Laden, the terrorist leader blamed for the attacks, dead.

"I want justice," Bush said. "And there's an old poster out West, that I recall, that said, 'Wanted, Dead or Alive.'"

Recalling that remark, Bush told the reporters: "I can remember getting back to the White House, and Laura said, 'Why did you do that for?' I said, 'Well, it was just an expression that came out. I didn't rehearse it.'"

"I don't know if you'd call it a regret, but it certainly is a lesson that a president must be mindful of, that the words that you sometimes say... I speak plainly sometimes, but you've got to be mindful of the consequences of the words."

During his second debate last year with presidential challenger Sen. John Kerry, Bush was asked to name three instances in which he had made a wrong decision. At the time he declined to identify any specific mistakes.

Reporters at Thursday's round-table also asked Bush about the high price tag for his second inaugural celebration and suggestions the \$40 million gala, which is being paid for by private donations — much of it coming from lobbyists and corporations — be scaled down.

"The inauguration is a great festival of democracy," he said.



President Bush speaks at a jobs and education forum at Florida Community College on Friday in Jacksonville, Fla.

New global powers forecast for 2020

BY KATHERINE
PFLEGER SHRADER

The Associated Press

LANGLEY, Va. — And now, a look into the future: al-Qaida, out; murky and scattered new terror cells, in. Hollywood, out; India's "Bollywood," in. America as sole superpower, out; China and India as world powers, in.

At least that's what U.S. intelligence future-gazers predicted Thursday.

"How we mentally map the world of 2020 will change radically," said the National Intelligence Council Chairman Robert Hutchings at the release of his panel's new report, Project 2020. Newly arriving powers "have the potential to render obsolete the old categories of East and West, North and South."

The unclassified forecasts offer a range of scenarios about the world 15 years out. Officials caution they are not meant to be predictions certain to come true but rather long-term outlooks designed to stimulate debate at the start of a new presidential term.

The council predicts an emergence of new global players — almost certainly China and India — but whether these new players fit into the world cooperatively or competitively remains an important uncertainty for the United States.

Council Vice Chairman David Gordon said the changes ahead could be "a very bumpy ride."

Among them, he said, the integration of 1 billion low-paid workers will cause global shifts in rich and poor countries alike. Changes will be experienced politically, economically and even culturally, as Korean pop singers gain international popularity and India's Bollywood movie industry outshines Hollywood.

"Of course, the United States is in good shape to participate in this world, but it will be a world that will be much more competitive for us," Gordon said.

Hutchings said this new world will raise the stakes for Arab countries, which may join in globalization trends or experience further alienation and humiliation. Terror threats, too, will change.

While radical extremism will continue to grow, the report says al-Qaida is expected to be superseded by similarly inspired, decentralized groups. Hutchings said he expects the innovation in terror attacks to come from new elements of surprise, rather than conventional weapons.

A team of analysts, consulting with more than 1,000 international experts, assembled Project 2020, which follows projects 2010 and 2015.



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States turn to Europe for cheaper medicines

MONTPELIER, Vt. — States looking to Canada for steep discounts on prescription drug prices are increasingly turning to Europe for deals now that the Canadian government is considering shutting off the southbound flow.

Illinois and three other states already help their residents buy prescriptions from such places as the United Kingdom and Ireland, a process dubbed reimportation because many of the drugs are made in the United States. The new Democratic majorities in the Vermont Legislature now want to join the club.

The move is intended to ensure that customers can get cheaper drugs even if one country decides to stop exports, said Caleb Weaver, project manager of I-SaveRx, the initiative launched by Illinois and now available in Wisconsin, Missouri and Kansas.

From The Associated Press

Grilling awaits Rice on road to confirmation

By JAMES BROSAN

Scripts Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, who in college feared she was destined to play show tunes in a piano bar, faces a demanding greg who went before climbing another rung up from the segregation of her childhood in Alabama.

On the eve of President Bush's inaugural day, his nominee for secretary of state is expected to face tough questions at Senate confirmation hearings about her own credibility and administra-

tion policies in Iraq, where more than 1,300 American soldiers have died.

No one doubts Rice will be confirmed by the Senate, but the Foreign Relations Committee hearings Tuesday and possibly Wednesday will be a test of her ability to handle herself on a stage where she will appear frequently, as well as a chance for her to establish on Bush's foreign policy aims for his second term.

Democrats plan to challenge Rice in a way they never did with her predecessor, Colin Powell, who four years ago breezed through a 4½-hour hearing.

"I'm going to have a lot of questions," said Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis. "It ranges all the way from how in the world she could have been persuaded that going into Iraq was a good idea to some very specific things on the information the president used."

The committee is loaded with liberal Democrats, including Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., Bush's foe in the 2004 election.

Republicans are confident she's up for the confrontation.

Was the case with Bush's nominee for attorney general, Al-

berto Gonzales, Rice, 50, is likely to be acknowledged by senators from both parties as someone who achieved great heights in the face of discrimination.

"I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, before the civil rights movement — a place that was once described, with no exaggeration, as the most thoroughly segregated city in the country," Rice recalled at Vanderbilt University last year. Rice, who has one advantage. Her parents, John and Angelina Rice, now deceased, were college graduates at a time when few Southern blacks got beyond high school.

Her father, a Presbyterian pastor, became dean of Stillman College and her mother taught music and science at an all-black school.

"My parents had me absolutely convinced that, well, you may not be a president, but you can be president of the United States," Rice said in a Newsweek interview.

How she handles her own questioning becomes part of the first impression everyone gets of her as secretary of state, he said.

Men join to put end to sex assault

By CHRISTINE REID

Scripts Howard News Service

BOULDER, Colo. — Rex Manz was the only one who didn't have his hand up.

He was also the only man in the room full of volunteers for the nonprofit Moving to End Sexual Assault, but that didn't bother him as much before the question.

"Have you ever done anything to avoid being sexually assaulted today?" a trainer asked.

Next to him, his wife, Judy, raised her hand. Manz had no idea the mother of his two children lived with the fear of being raped on a daily basis.

He's working to change that, along with four other men, as part of the new Men's Prevention Education Program run by the Boulder nonprofit Moving to End Sexual Assault, or MESA.

The idea is for men to talk to other men, and boys, about their role in preventing sexual assault.

"It's men challenging other men on what they're doing, what they're saying and how they're acting," said Janine D'Amabile, MESA's executive director.

Nationally renowned gender-violence activist Jackson Katz helped coin the phrase "bystander intervention."

It encompasses everything from stopping a buddy from taking advantage of a drunk woman to curbing vulgar talk in the locker room.

The number of programs to help survivors of sexual assault is at an all-time high, and education of women on how to stay safe is almost second nature nowadays, but what hasn't been talked about is the number of assaults, Katz said.

"Until men are involved and until we shift our thinking to the idea that these are fundamentally men's issues ... then our efforts are bound to be just cleaning up after the fact," Katz said.

Katz said men are not "genetically programmed" to assault women, but a culture of machismo, violence and sexism leads to the United States' sad rape statistics. It's up to men to change that, he said.

"The goal is to get guys to confront each other," he said.

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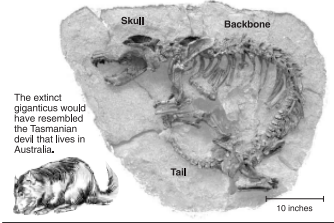
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Mammals turn tables on dinosaurs

A 130-million-year-old mammal named *Repenomamus giganticus* found in fossil beds in Xi'an, China, was the size of a dog large enough to feast on young dinosaurs. A related species also was found with the remains of a dinosaur in its stomach.



The extinct *giganticus* would have resembled the Tasmanian devil that lives in Australia.

Source: Nature

AP

Preserved remains show mammals fed on small dinosaurs

BY JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA

The Associated Press

DENVER — Villagers digging in China's rich fossil beds have uncovered the preserved remains of a tiny dinosaur in the belly of a mammal, a startling discovery for scientists who have long believed early mammals couldn't possibly attack and eat a dinosaur.

Scientists say the animal's last meal probably is the first proof that mammals hunted small dinosaurs some 130 million years ago. It contradicts conventional evolutionary theory that early mammals were timid, chipmunk-sized creatures that scurried in the looming shadow of the giant reptiles.

In this case, the mammal was about the size of a large cat, and the victim was a 5-inch "parrot dinosaur."

A second mammal fossil found at the same site claims the distinction of being the largest early mammal ever found. It's about the size of a modern dog, a breathtaking 20 times larger than most mammals living in the early Cretaceous period.

Considering the specimens in tandem, scientists suggest the period in which these animals lived may have been much different than is commonly understood as the Age of Dinosaurs — a time dominated by long-necked, 85-ton plant-eaters and the emergence of terrifying hunters with blade-like teeth and sickle claws.

It appears that at least some smaller dinosaurs had to look over their shoulders for snarling, meat-eating mammals claiming the same turf.

"This new evidence gives us a drastically new picture," said paleontologist Meng Jin of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, a co-author of the study in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

The fossils were found more than two years ago in Liaoning

province. The specimens were taken to a Beijing lab, where they were cleaned and analyzed by Chinese and American scientists. The dinosaur-eater belongs to a species called *Repenomamus robustus*, known previously from skull fragments.

This squat, toothy specimen is more complete; lying on its side, it measures a little less than 2 feet long and probably weighed about 15 pounds.

On *R. robustus*' left side and under the ribs in the location of its stomach are the fragmented remains of a very young *Psittacosaurus*.

This common, fast-moving plant-eater is known as the "parrot dinosaur" because it had a small head with a curved, horny beak.

Its arms were much shorter than its legs. Adults grew to be 6 feet long, but the one that was devoured was just 5 inches.

The remains still are recognizable, indicating that *R. robustus* ripped its prey like a crocodile, but probably had not developed the ability to chew food like more advanced mammals.

"We can still see articulated limb bones," Meng said. "It must have swallowed food in large hunks without being chewed."

The larger, second fossil also is a *Repenomamus*, but considerably larger. It measures more than 3 feet long and probably weighed more than 30 pounds. Scientists have named it *R. giganticus*.

This new class of predatory mammals has set off new speculation.

Originally, scientists believed that mammals remained small because larger dinosaurs were hunting them. Only after dinosaurs went extinct by 65 million years ago did surviving mammals begin to grow larger, they reasoned.

Now, the presence of larger mammals is reversing some of the speculation.

Mississippi River levels raise flood fears

BY CAIN BURDEAU

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — For now, the Mississippi River valley, swollen from snow melt and rain, is mostly a nuisance. But with the rest of winter and spring ahead, there are growing worries about the threat of devastating flooding.

"We have some pretty good water coming. It's so early in the year, and that's one of the things that is causing us some concern," said Larry Banks, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers watershed di-

vision chief who oversees the Mississippi River.

High waters have caused problems for river traffic on the Ohio River and minor flooding in low-lying areas outside the levees that hold in the river's water.

"Last week we had four to eight inches of rain over a good part of the lower Missouri, upper Mississippi and the Ohio river basins and that's pushed river levels to well above flood stages," Banks said. "It will put water into homes, camps, businesses along a 900-plus mile reach of the river."

The volume of water coursing down the river this January hasn't been seen in more than 50 years, officials said. On Jan. 19, the river is expected to crest at 54.5 feet at Cairo, Ill. — about 14.5 feet above flood stage. The water gauge at Cairo is a key indicator because it measures the combined flow of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, or about 41 percent of the nation's waters.

Levee boards and Corps officials are on alert. "This whole levee system is only as good as its weakest link, so everybody has to work together to make sure it stays intact," Banks said.

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Study: Drowsy docs as dangerous as drunks

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON

The Associated Press

They're in training to save lives, but medical interns sometimes threaten them: Lack of sleep from very long hospital shifts can make young doctors behind the wheel as dangerous as drunks, researchers found.

Doctors in training were more than twice as likely to get in a car crash while driving home after working 24 hours or longer, compared with when they worked shorter shifts, according to a study by Harvard Medical School researchers.

The study also found that after extended shifts young doctors were about six times more likely to report a near-miss accident and that they sometimes fell asleep while driving.

"A lot of the lay public doesn't realize that twice a week most young doctors in this country are forced by hospitals to work these marathon shifts of 30 hours in a row," said senior researcher Dr. Charles A. Zeiler, professor of sleep medicine at Harvard Medical School and head of sleep medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. "If they're going to require these trainees to

work such long hours, they should at least provide them with transportation home."

The study, reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, was done by some of the same Harvard Medical School researchers who just last fall reported that sleep-deprived doctors made one-third more medical errors during their many long shifts, compared with shorter ones.

The new study included monthly surveys the researchers collected from 2,737 first-year interns in hospitals around the country from April 2002 through May 2003.

More than two-thirds of the drowsy doctors drove home from work.

The data, including police accident reports, showed that each extended work shift per month increased chances of a car crash by 16 percent, while commuting home and raised the risk of any crash by 9 percent.

The researchers found the doctors worked on-call shifts averaging 32 hours in which they were lucky to grab a few hours' sleep, and about half worked from 81 to 140 hours per week.

An accompanying editorial by traffic safety consultant C. Dennis Wylie of Santa Barbara, Calif.,

noted the increased accident risk for interns after an extended work shift roughly corresponds to the impairment of a driver with a blood alcohol level of 0.06 to 0.09 percent. The legal limit is 0.08 for drivers in most states.

In July 2003, just after this study concluded, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education set standards limiting interns' duty hours.

They now are limited to 80 hours per week and no more than three on-call shifts a week, both averaged over four weeks. Interns can work up to 24 straight hours, plus up to six additional hours for educational activities.

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'theory' disclaimer creates controversy

Judge orders removal of evolution warning placed in textbooks by Georgia school board

BY DOUG GROSS
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Since 2002, Dr. Kenneth Miller has been upset that biology textbooks he has written are slapped with a warning sticker by the time they appear in suburban Atlanta schools.

Evolution, the stickers say, is "a theory, not a fact."

"What it tells students is that we're certain of everything else in this book except evolution," said Miller, a professor of biology at Brown University, who with Joseph S. Levine has authored three texts for high school students.

On Thursday, Miller — along with fellow teachers and scientists — cheered a federal judge's ruling that ordered the Cobb County school board to immediately remove the stickers and never again hand them out in any form.

"Obviously, this is quite a victory for good science education," said Benjamin Z. Freed, an anthropology professor at Atlanta's Emory University and chairman of Georgia Citizens for Integrity in Science Education.

But some parents and religious conservatives decried the ruling as another in a

This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully, and critically considered.

Approved by
Cobb County Board of Education
Thursday, March 28, 2002

A federal judge in Atlanta ordered a suburban Atlanta school system Thursday to remove stickers, which refer to evolution as "a theory, not a fact," from its high school biology textbooks, saying the disclaimers were an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

string of what opponents call activist judges overruling the wishes of elected officials — on matters of religion.

"It's another example of how the bench is dictating to people what symbols they can display, if they can pray or not pray or if they can teach a particular subject," said

Sadie Fields, head of the Georgia chapter of the Christian Coalition.

The school district just north of Atlanta approved the stickers after more than 2,000 parents complained the textbooks presented evolution as fact, without mentioning rival ideas about the beginnings of life.

During four days of testimony in federal court last November, the school system defended the warning stickers as a show of tolerance, not religious activism as some parents claimed. Its attorneys argued the school board had made a good-faith effort to address questions that inevitably arise during the teaching of evolution.

The stickers read, "This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered."

Scientists, several of whom testified in the case, say the sticker confuses the scientific term "theory" with the word's common usage and inappropriately combines science with personal religious belief.

"Many of us hold deeply personal religious ideals as well," Freed said. "But for a science teacher in a public school to introduce religion into a science class would fall way outside the ideals of any organization of scientists or science educators."

The school board issued a statement saying members are disappointed by the ruling and are meeting with lawyers to decide whether to appeal. The Cobb school system has 30 days to appeal.

Lutheran church urged to keep same-sex views

BY MELANIE COFFEE
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Trying to walk a line that will preserve unity, a panel recommended Thursday that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially maintain its positions against same-sex blessing ceremonies and gay and lesbian ministers in relationships but tolerate dissenters.

Both conservatives and gay and lesbian groups were disappointed.

Conservatives say the recommendations — to be considered by church leaders at their August meeting — condone defeat of church doctrine; gay supporters say they reinforce discrimination.

Many fear the issue will divide the church, one of the nation's largest Protestant bodies with 5 million members.

Several major Protestant denominations have recently been torn by issues involving gays and lesbians in the clergy and church. The U.S. Episcopal Church, in particular, has dealt with upheaval and discord since consecrating an openly gay bishop in 2003.

Evangelical Lutheran Church policy bans gay and lesbian clergy who are involved with partners, but allows those who are celibate.

The bishops' conference opposes same-sex blessings, but its 1993 statement on the matter has been regarded as guidance rather than official policy.

The new recommendations, released at the church's Chicago headquarters, came from a 14-member panel of clergy, seminary professors and lay people. It suggested that:

■ The church keep its policy

against gay and lesbian clergy with partners, but allow leeway in choosing whether to discipline such ministers and those who approve their employment.

■ The church "continue to respect" the bishops' statement against same-sex ceremonies, but let bishops allow pastors and congregations to use their discretion in ministering to same-sex couples.

■ Church members find "ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements" because, "the God-given mission and communion we share is at least as important as the issues" about which Lutherans are "decisively at odds."

"Our hope is that the disagreements within the church, which are profound and should not be glossed over, will not divide us," said the Rev. James Childs Jr., an ethics professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, who oversaw a 2003 Lutheran Network "sexuality and worked with the panel."

But some conservatives say the Lutheran church is already divided.

"You can't have people running in completely opposite directions on something that's as serious as the authority of Scripture and pretend that we have unity," said the Rev. Mark Chavez, director of the Word-Alone Network. "God's word is very clear on this matter — homosexual behavior and relationships are out of bounds."

He said the recommendations would "unintentionally" cause some to leave the church.

"There are so many individuals who are already discouraged and really disturbed by where the ELCA is headed," Chavez said.

"They're going to see this and say 'I don't want any part of it.'"



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Church as appeal to cowboy spirit

BY LINDA STEWART BALL

The Dallas Morning News

PLANO, Texas — The Narrow Trail Cowboy Church in Plano may seem like a study in contradictions to some.

Held beneath a covered patio at the Love and War In Texas restaurant, it attracts more suburban professionals than real rural cowhands.

Yet it's one of three so-called cowboy churches that have sprung up in Collin County, Texas, in recent months with moral support from the Collin Baptist Association.

Statewide, there are more than 30. This is a place where folks say they can worship God in pony-tied cowboy boots or comfy tennis shoes without feeling judged or preached at.

"It's really laid-back," said restaurant owner and church co-founder Tye Phelps, who provides a free migas-and-venison-sausage breakfast half an hour before the 9-30 a.m. Sunday service starts. "The people who tend to show up are those who don't feel comfortable in typical church surroundings."

Narrow Trail Cowboy Church is far from traditional or typical.

For starters, there are no crosses in this Christian church. Neon beer signs cover Real and wood hand stone walls. Picnic tables are the pews, on which folks put their

Bibles or steaming cups of java.

And the restaurant's Shiner Texas Music Stage — an unabashed ad for the beer — is the pulpit.

Someone once cracked that the church could use a beer cooler as a baptismal pool.

Given the high cost of land in these parts, churches have been held in some pretty unusual spaces, including storefronts, movie theaters, hotels and schools. But a restaurant? bar?

"It doesn't matter where you are, if you're preaching the Lord it can be in a bar or a church," said singer/songwriter Austin Cunningham, one of the several country musicians who have performed at a Saturday night and swung back by to play more Gospel-oriented tunes at the church Sunday morning.

His song "The Narrow Trail" was a hit at the first service this fall. The lyrics tell of a cowboy who is "lured down a deceptive canyon by a whiskey bottle and a saloon girl's smile. The cowboy is trying to stay on a straight and narrow trail."

The congregation quickly claimed the song's title as its own.

"The music is a big part of it," Phelps said of the church's appeal.

About 30 people, including a handful of kids, came each week.

"I love it," said Hoot Gibson, 57 of

Frisco, Texas, who rides a longhorn steer, sports a handlebar mustache and wears one of the few wide-brimmed hats to church.

"Everybody is so friendly," Gibson said. "It's real personable."

Many said the relaxed and informal fellowship, complete with good-natured ribbing, is a big draw.

They don't pass an offering plate at the Narrow Trail church. A metal bucket marked "tips" sits at the door, where some leave donations.

"We don't want to scare people off," said preacher John Myers, 42, a part-time student at the Dallas Theological Seminary who makes his living selling commercial real estate and restoring buildings.

Though he grew up on a farm/ranch in Kansas, Myers said he got "cintified" and longed to return to his rural roots. He's raising his family in Lucas and was intrigued by the notion of the cowboy church he came across in his religious studies.

When he heard Phelps reminiscing on the radio about cowboy camp meetings he attended in his youth in Kerrville, Texas, he knew he had found a kindred spirit. "It's kind of a new phenomenon, an awakening going on across Texas and the country," Myers said of the church. "The first one was started up in Nashville."

Others are start-up cowboy churches in Celina, Royce City and the community of Rhea Mills, northwest of McKinney. There are more-established services at Waco, Abilene and Fort Worth.

"There are no pretensions, you can just be who you are," said Richard Hagar, director of church-starting for the Collin Baptist Association, which assists 105 churches in Collin County.

Organizers admit that Narrow Trail isn't a "true cowboy church" in the sense that folks have manure on their boots. It's more an Old West attitude.

"There are only a few hats here, and we take them off when we're praying," Myers said. "It's a church for people who don't care for church."

"I'm looking for people who have been out drinking Friday night and the wife has been saying, 'Go to church.'"

He says he seeks to change lives through the Scriptures.

So when he takes the stage in his new black cowboy hat and Western shirt, he keeps his message simple and guilt-free: God is love and offers forgiveness through Jesus.

Gerald Johnson, 47, a computer technician, said he was raised Baptist and had been going to a little church but never felt at ease.

"This is a little unorthodox, but it's great," Johnson said.

On a recent Sunday, as the rain poured down on the white tent-top attached to the restaurant's patio, the congregation tuned out the swoosh of cars driving by on Plano Parkway. Folks leaned forward to hear the soft-spoken testimony of a McKinney man who recently toured the Holy Land and said he stood where Moses once did.

The congregation listened in reverent awe. Myers followed up with an equally sober prayer.

"This is so wonderful," said Susie Coffman, 51, an executive assistant at Brookhaven College, after a recent Narrow Trail service.

"You go away from here feeling like you've been to church. It's uplifting."

Christian rockers see Europeans as 'way more intense'

BY BRIAN BOWERS

Stars and Stripes

Americans in Europe got the rare opportunity to rock with some of Christian music's hottest artists and most promising newcomers last month.

Fans at Christ-mas Rock Night in Germany and Winter Wonder Rock Festival in the Netherlands were able to catch performances by Pillar, the O.C. Superlones, Project 86, Barlow Girl, Sanctus Real and the hard-rocking new group Day of Fire.

While such festivals are common stateside, few make their way to secularized Europe. But that doesn't mean they're less welcome.

"I think they were really more receptive," said Joshua Brown, frontman for Day of Fire.

"They really want to rock, they really want to thrash around, but they're really hungry for the Spirit of God."

Although the cultures are different, people are the same, Brown said. "It's the same needs. People are looking for the same things overseas as they are in America. People are looking for acceptance and people are looking for love."

Among those singing, dancing and prancing at the Dutch and German festivals were members of the U.S. military community. "They seemed really excited to

have American rock music over there," he said.

Brown said he enjoys reaching out to U.S. troops because his wife grew up in a military family.

"I am so thankful for our troops," he said. "Any time I see someone in a uniform, I like to give them a CD."

For Day of Fire, whose "Cornerstone" spent much of December at No. 3 on the Christian radio rock chart, the festivals were just one part of European concert tour.

"The crowds were a little smaller in Europe than they are in the States, but they were way more intense. ... They came to rock," Brown said.

Just a few years ago, a Christian concert tour would have seemed unimaginable to Brown. He was lead singer for a successful group known as Full Devil Jacket, which spent a year and a half touring with Nickelback, Fuel and Creed. During that time, Brown lived the stereotypical rocker lifestyle.

"Five years ago, I was on drugs and I was looking for another high. I never thought I could kick it or that I would want to kick it," Brown said.

That changed after a heroin overdose and a stint in rehab.

"God came into my life when I was almost dead," he said. "He's an aggressive God."

Brown turned away from Full Devil Jacket and the music busi-

ness after he realized the old band and his new life didn't mesh. However, Brown eventually met Gregg Hionis and the two formed Day of Fire.

Brown's personal experience makes Day of Fire's self-titled debut album hard-edged and genuine. Most of the disc's songs feature guitar-driven rock and Brown's throaty vocals. It opens with "Through the Fire," an assertive account of God promising to see a believer through trials. The hit "Cornerstone" is a little slower but no less intense as it describes relying on God's strength. Other excellent tracks are the hard-hitting "I Am the Door," which examines the need to turn away from sin, and the slower "Rain Song."

The songs are packed with images touching on Brown's struggles, as well as his new life.

"I like music for the person that I used to be," said "Because God came into my life and healed me of drug addiction and completely changed my heart and my mind. I want other people to know who he is. ... My mission is just to introduce people to the Jesus that I know. He's not a book of rules or a church service, he's the living God."

On the Web: www.dayoffire.com.

Today's Pulse is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowersb@stripes.osd.mil



Photo courtesy of Essential Records

Joshua Brown, front, and Gregg Hionis, left, are the core members of Day of Fire. Brown originally made a name for himself in mainstream music as the lead singer of Full Devil Jacket.

Sunday Horoscope

The first quarter moon is the cheerleader on your shoulder shouting, "Go, go, go!" An impending deadline doesn't hurt, either, and there are new consequences for not meeting projections. It's extremely motivating, and under the last few rays of Capricorn sun, we have the discipline to make it happen without emotional resistance.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 16). The opportunities that come along with your age are once in a lifetime. You feel that extra confidence would help you excel, but confidence comes from risking. So through this month and next, risk first, and you'll have a winning attitude this spring. May is perfect for interviews and developing your public persona. Love signs are Pisces and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

An uncharacteristically dole mood has you putting up with things you normally wouldn't. A remark here, a dither pile there, a life bad behavior from the kids — it does add up. Resolve at least one of these issues by sundown.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

When you deserve better, and you know it, make a fuss! If you don't, people around you think you don't care. Also, return the sweater you got for Christmas now while you're still within the 30-day limit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Friends look to you to keep them in line — what are they thinking? You're more likely to inspire mischief than to enforce rules. And for this very reason, you help people find their inner parent and take responsibility.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Revisiting childhood memories unlocks a current puzzling relationship dilemma. Like it or not, your parents are your parents and forever more will be so. So take a breath, and slide into the past to figure this one out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

The sickeningly sweet tone of people around you are trying to be perfect only causes you to poke and prod until you get the response you're looking for.

Holiday Mathis



for — really. Say goodbye to hearts and flowers, and let the healing begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It feels moral to think that social status doesn't matter, but deep down, it still does. There's a need to see fancy clothes, laughing at witty exchanges — and a greater need to be a part of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Loved ones spill intimate words. You don't hear this every day — and what would life be like if you did? Absorb kindness instead of tossing it immediately back to the giver. Accepting compliments well is a talent worth developing.

oping.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're called to defend your honor in some small way. By doing an excellent job on the minor scale, you're preparing to do an excellent job on the major scale. It's all important, if not to you, then to someone significant to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

The stars are like a giant cosmic vacuum cleaner lifting foreign particles from your life. But you love the foreign particles. It's disorder that makes life interesting. Let go of some dirt, and things will shine again.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

It's time to do what you normally wouldn't. A visit to the fringe is inspiring. Besides, your relationships need ingenuity to thrive. To sláve away the old ones, try something new tonight — Bombay sag potatoes, anyone?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Family members clamor for your attention. If you feel like joining in the fun, go for it. But chances are, you'd like to focus on your career or hobby instead. Make sure to ask for what you need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your subconscious is a swirl of activity. Wind down your rants, your insights and your dreams. Somewhere in the scrawl, there is a clue about a hidden health issue that needs your attention.

Creators Syndicate

Caesar named for operation?

I've read that the term "cesarean section" comes from the belief that Julius Caesar was delivered in this way. What is the evidence that the term came from the belief and not the belief from the term?

The name "Caesar" is a cognomen, a nickname given to one member of a Roman clan and borne by his descendants as a sign of honor. No one knows who the original Caesar was, but his descendants within his clan, the Julii, continued to use his cognomen and formed a major branch of the clan.

According to a legend related by the Roman naturalist Pliny, the first Caesar was so called be-

cause he was cut from the womb of his dying mother (in Latin, a caesura matris utero), "Caesar" supposedly being a derivative of the verb "caedere," "to cut."

This etymology is dubious, but the name "Caesar" has continued to be associated with surgery to remove a child that cannot be delivered naturally.

Evidence for the belief that Julius Caesar, the most famous bearer of the cognomen, was himself delivered in this way is as early as 1540, but there is no authority for this notion.

This column was prepared by the editors of *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Sister should not blame others for husband's dangerous antics

Dear Abby: My oldest sister, "Daisy," is married to an emotionally unstable man. I'll call him Dwight. Dwight's claim to fame is bragging that he can kill people with his bare hands.

Last year, at a family get-together, he grabbed my sister-in-law "Myra" from behind without warning, pulling her hair, getting her into a choke hold and physically hurting her. Myra barely knows Dwight. She was terribly frightened and upset, and ended up pressing charges against him.

The next day I called and asked Daisy about it. Her reply was that Dwight often shows off his "abilities" by grabbing people. Abby, her husband is old enough to know better. He's in his late 50s, but Daisy's attitude was "boys will be boys."

Because Myra pressed charges, Dwight was arrested. Daisy hasn't spoken to me since. She won't return my phone calls or acknowledge birthday cards and has generally been giving me the silent treatment for a year. Is it right for her to hold me responsible, since it was Myra who pressed charges?

Snubbed Sister in Burbank
Dear Snubbed Sister: What Dwight did was childish and dangerous. Martial arts were

intended as a form of self-defense, not a way of getting attention at social gatherings. For an adult to have such a lapse in judgment is shocking, and he deserved to be arrested. Your sister should direct her anger at her husband, where it belongs, instead of at you. Myra was right to press charges. I hope it taught Dwight a much-needed lesson.

Dear Abby: I am 41 years old and in my seventh month of pregnancy. I am a professional, all the second-ranked women in my office. I have prided myself on my professionalism during my pregnancy and didn't announce it until I was 21 weeks along.

One woman in my office insists on calling me "Little Mother" and rubbing my stomach. I am not comfortable with her touching my abdomen and have asked her not to refer to me as "Little Mother." I explained I didn't want others in the office to hear such comments.

Today, in our office lobby, she again made the "mommy" reference and rubbed my stomach — with both hands. I lost it. I told her to stop it and leave my stomach alone. Now she gives me funny looks and says I am not happy being pregnant.

Abby, I have worked all through my pregnancy. I don't want anyone making a big deal of it. I feel the woman's conduct is unprofessional. I have tried hard not to let my pregnancy interfere with my work life, and I feel she is not allowing me the dignity and professional respect I deserve.

When people get into the habit of rubbing a pregnant woman's stomach is acceptable? I wouldn't do that to someone I considered a friend, much less a co-worker. Dittu for the "January Mother" comments. Your thoughts, please.

— Pregnant Professional in Houston

Dear Professional: Believe it or not, your complaint is not unusual. I have heard from many pregnant women complaining that people they barely know, even complete strangers — feel entitled to touch their abdomens. I have no idea why anyone would feel entitled to invade someone's personal space that way. As to the "Little Mother" moniker — since you have spoken to the woman and she persists, tell her into your office and tell her in no uncertain terms that you consider her behavior disrespectful and unprofessional.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pregnantprofessional.com>. Universal Press Syndicate

Thank veterans for what they are remembered as

Dear Annie: Year after year, your generous readers open their hearts to America's hospitalized veterans by participating in the

Valentines for Vets program. This program encourages readers to deliver valentines to their nearest Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, and in years past, it has resulted in millions of cards and letters for America's veterans.

Just as the dedicated community members made more than 100,000 patient visits, and hundreds more chose to become volunteers at one of our VA hospitals or outpatient clinics. This success would not be possible without your support and that of your faithful and thoughtful readers. Teachers in schools, churches, scouting groups and social organizations have used this program to bring their students closer to those veterans who have served our country so valiantly, and gave them a greater understanding of our nation's history. In some cases, the students delivered their valentines in person.

What your readers provide by their caring notes and well wishes can have more power to give these veterans hope than any treatment or pill ever prescribed. At VA, our readers will also find, through volunteering, many op-

portunities to pay tribute to our nation's veterans. No special skills are necessary, just a willingness to give the gift of their time and caring to our veterans.

The 2005 National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is just around the corner, Feb. 13-19. We hope your readers will again let

our veterans know that they are not forgotten. I encourage your readers to visit these veterans and thank them in person. The addresses of our facilities can be obtained by looking in the telephone directory, by calling our toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000 or by checking our Web site at www.va.gov/volunteer.

We look forward to another successful year of Valentines for Vets, and I know our veterans do as well. Sincerely,

— Montel Williams, 2005 Chairman, National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program

Dear Montel Williams: Thank you for once again giving us the opportunity to continue this worthwhile project, and that means a great deal to us. We can never repay these courageous veterans for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, but we can take the time to cheer them up and let them know they have not been forgotten.

Every year, members of Camp Fire USA deliver valentines to our veterans, and Salvation Army volunteers distribute valentines, gifts and refreshments to various VA facilities around the country.

Teachers, you have always been extremely helpful and supportive in making this a class project, especially with those who are handicapped or veterans. Our veterans are particularly gratified to know that today's young students recognize and appreciate them. We hope you will encourage your students to be creative and let them learn firsthand the satisfaction that comes from doing something for others.

Readers, the veterans would be thrilled if you could drop off your valentines in person and visit for a few minutes. If you do not live close enough to a VA facility to stop by, you can mail your valentines. To find the location of the nearest VA hospital, you can check your phone book, access the VA Web site facility locator at www.va.gov/directory, or call the toll-free number at 1-800-427-1000.

Bless you. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime volunteer handmaidens to veterans. Please e-mail your questions to aniesmailbox@creators.com. Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



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18 Afghan holes

NC HIGH POINT — One man's efforts to help rebuild Afghanistan involve a few rounds of golf.

Paul McNeill Jr. briefly returned home to High Point to pick up shirts for the new Kabul Golf Club.

The main goal is to show people things are better under a modern democratic life-style," said McNeill, chief of administrative services for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

During his time in Afghanistan, McNeill helped de-mine and renovate a course built in 1967, which was abandoned when the Soviets invaded the country in 1979.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Program investigation

TX HOUSTON — Accusations that the school district may be overstating the number of meals eaten in a government-subsidized breakfast program in order to boost revenue will be checked out by state investigators.

The Texas Department of Agriculture scheduled the weeklong audit for later this month. The accusations came amid increasing reimbursements to the Houston Independent School District from the federal subsidized meals program. Payments have grown by 50 percent to \$69 million since 2000.

The district and Aramark Corp., the private company that has managed its cafeterias since 1997, have repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

Slasher wounds two

NY NEW YORK — A man with a box cutter slashed a teenage girl on the wrist and then minutes later sliced a Sunday school teacher across her face while she walked to church, police said.

The 65-year-old teacher was walking in front of a grocery store around 12:45 p.m. Sunday when she was attacked by the man, who was armed with a box cutter or similar instrument, police said. The man slashed her face and fled without saying a word.

Minutes earlier and about a block away, a man matching the description of the teacher's attacker had slashed a 17-year-old girl, police said.

Electrocution death

OH CHARDON — A 17-year-old Amish boy was electrocuted trying to remove a power line that got tangled in his horse-drawn buggy's wheels, authorities said.

The boy drove over a power line Tuesday that had sagged down within a foot of the road after separating from a pole, authorities said.

The line got stuck in the wheels and stopped the buggy. The boy got out and grabbed the 4,800-volt line in an attempt to remove it from the wheels, the Geauga County Sheriff's office said. He died at the scene.

The boy's name was not released because his family had not all been notified, officials said.

Fire bomb influx

CA SACRAMENTO — Authorities safely disabled five fire-

bombs found at an office complex under construction Wednesday, the second time in a month explosive devices have been found at a construction site in the area.

FBI agent Keith Slotter said authorities believe eco-terrorists could be responsible, but they have no suspects. No one was injured in either incident.

The bombs found at the office complex in Auburn on Wednesday matched three found Dec. 27 at an upscale subdivision under construction in nearby Lincoln. Both towns are northeast of Sacramento.

Campaigning for House

NV CARSON CITY — Nevada Secretary of State Dean Heller said he'll run for the U.S. House seat that fellow Republican Jim Gibbons is expected to vacate to run for governor. Heller's announcement follows comments last week by outgoing Assemblywoman Dawn Gibbons, who said she will seek her husband's seat if he decides to run for governor in 2006.

Political profanity

WI WAUSAU — A man protesting the war in Iraq with a sign that blended President Bush's

name with a profanity was ticketed for using obscene language in public.

The protester said Monday he would fight the citation, calling it a violation of his constitutional right to free speech.

Police Chief William Brandomore said the city attorney's office was researching whether the ticket violated any constitutional rights, even though the city attorney had advised police to issue the original ticket late last week.

"We will do the right thing," Brandomore said.

Crossing guard layoffs

RI PROVIDENCE — A Superior Court judge ruled that Cranston Mayor Stephen Laffey can lay off the city's crossing guards, whose contract entitles them to full health benefits for working about one hour per day. Judge Daniel Procaccini said the city's ailing financial situation warranted the decision to furlough the guards.

More than she wanted

TN BARTLETT — All Milly Beck wanted was a Gap credit card. But after applying last month, she checked her e-mail this week and found her card — plus, 285 more exactly like it.

Beck called Gap's customer service. They were flabbergasted and apologetic.

Pete Tosches, a spokesman with G.E. Consumer Finance, the credit-card provider, said it was a glitch in the computer system and apparently happened only to Beck.

The Gap customer-service representative advised her to shred them all. She's getting a \$100 gift certificate for her trouble.

Alluring tropical island

HI HONOLULU — As temperatures drop across the nation, winter-weary sports fans will be treated to more than 60 hours of television images of swaying palm trees lining fairways, white sand bunkers and football stars sweating in the Hawaii sun.

It's all a strategic effort to lure more visitors to the islands.

The state is spending the bulk of its \$8 million annual sports marketing budget in January and February to host eight televised sporting events taking place on three islands.

"We're trying to portray Hawaii as a place that's much more multi-dimensional than just a sun and surf destination," said Frank Haas, vice president of marketing for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Rising insurance prices

AZ PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano defended rising spending for health insurance for low-income Arizonans. The rising costs result primarily from growth in enrollment, which has climbed to more than 1 million people. The state now spends \$860 million, or 12 percent, of the state general fund on the program. Napolitano said she's more concerned that many Arizonans still lack insurance.



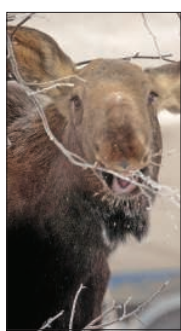
Angelica Smith, left, fights medieval style with Russ Thurston at Crookmore Park in Fort Smith, Ark. The pair are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism.



Johnny McGraw, of South Caddo Towing, uses a shovel and a rowboat to access a car for towing that was driven into a canal of Cross Lake in Shreveport, La. The driver was not injured in the accident.



Mattie Lawton, center, future owner of a Habitat for Humanity home, and family members break ground during a ceremony for the Miami Dade Housing Agency Hope VI project in Miami. Lawton is a former resident of the Scott Carver housing projects, which are being demolished.



Icy snack

A moose calf chews on a frost-covered willow branch as it wanders around Anchorage, Alaska, neighborhood. Moose are commonly seen walking around Anchorage looking for an easy meal and keeping motorists and pedestrians alert.



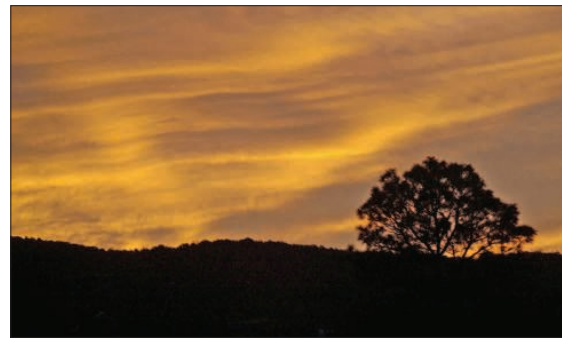
Sailing through winter Sailboats pass Fanueil Hall, background left, and the Boston waterfront during heavy snow. Weekly winter sailing on Saturdays is a tradition at several sailing clubs on Boston Harbor.



Seeing red A fighting bull makes a pass as Enrique Delgado performs during the Santa Maria Bullring's opening of the 2005 bullfighting season in La Gloria, Texas.



A little lift Tom Walsh of Keene, N.H., carries a sled containing his 21-month-old daughter, Thera, back to the top of a sledding hill in Keene.



Day is done, gone the sun The setting sun highlights the clouds and the tree line in High Falls, N.M.

State eyes pension fraud

MA BOSTON — More than 30 people wrongfully collected a total of about \$1 million in pension benefits, according to a report by the State Retirement Board.

In one case, the family of a former judge continued to collect pension checks for years after his death and owes the state roughly \$100,000, the board said. State Treasurer Timothy Cahill said he will turn over any cases of suspected abuses of the pension system to the attorney general's office.

Spending spree busted

OK DURANT — Meals at the Bryan County Jail aren't what they used to be after authorities discovered an inmate chef with a gourmet palate spent more than twice as much on groceries as was budgeted.

Jail officials are cutting costs in the kitchen after authorities were billed \$13,000 for a month's worth of inmate food.

The monthly grocery bill at the jail is usually about \$5,000.

The menu is back to normal — chicken patties instead of chicken breasts — and food costs are under control, Ridgway said. Staff members are ordering the food and taking inventory.

Gas leak investigated

DC WASHINGTON — Fire officials said they're investigating whether teenagers trying to steal money from clothes dryers disrupted a gas line, leading to a deadly apartment building explosion. A fire and EMS spokesman said they may never know exactly what set off the gas leak.

The resulting explosion killed an 18-month-old girl and severely burned her mother. A firefighter was also hurt.

Barrier could be trouble

IL CHICAGO — Federal and state officials are conducting tests to determine whether a \$9 million electric barrier being built to keep the invasive Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan could also harm boats in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal.

Officials discussed safety issues after crewmembers spotted an arc flashing between barges that drifted into the barrier.

Judges allowed leeway

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire courts have joined most of the nation's judicial systems that allow judges clear authority to correct legal mistakes made by their colleagues and lawyers.

A year ago, a Bedford man sought a new trial on his six stalking convictions, arguing that his trial judge gave the jury bad instructions. The state Supreme Court refused but because neither the man nor his lawyer had raised the complaint at trial.

Until Nov. 1, court rules required lawyers to "preserve" a complaint at the trial level if they wanted to raise it later on appeal.

The new "plain error rule" allows a judge at any level of court to correct a mistake even if the par-

ties didn't bring it to the judge's attention.

Early voting catches on

WV CHARLESTON — Early voting in West Virginia was a hit in the 2004 general election, with more than 125,000 voters casting ballots before the polls opened on Election Day.

Early voting accounted for 16 percent of the total votes cast, a record 769,645 ballots, the Secretary of State's Office said.

SOS for oysters

MD ANNAPOLIS — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is reviewing a petition to recognize the Chesapeake Bay's native oysters as "threatened" or "endangered," which likely would halt or limit harvesting of the struggling bivalves.

The petition was filed last week by Dieter Busch, a consultant who formerly headed an arm of the 15-state Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a regulatory authority.

Busch acknowledged it's not likely that the native oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, would meet the criteria to become an endangered species — a designation that deems an animal is on the verge of becoming extinct. Such a label would halt all harvesting of the oysters.

Sales tax pays off

WI GREEN BAY — The sales tax to repay loans used to finance the \$295 million renovation of Lambeau Field generated \$20.8 million in its fourth year, the most ever, the stadium district reported.

It's the third straight year the half-percent Brown County tax produced more money than the previous year. Brown County voters narrowly approved the sales tax in 2000.

Molestation alleged

RI PROVIDENCE — A Kent County Hospital anesthesiologist has had his license suspended as authorities investigate whether he molested a patient who was in surgery.

The state Health Department announced yesterday it had suspended Russel Aubin's license. Health director Patricia Nolan called him an immediate danger to the public. He'll have a hearing within 10 days.

The 39-year-old doctor allegedly molested a 21-year-old female patient while she was undergoing knee surgery from a soccer injury.

Pledge sitter wins fight

VA STAFFORD — Students will now be allowed to sit during the Pledge of Allegiance in Spotsylvania County schools.

The School Board's decision to change its policy, given final approval Monday night, was sparked by seventh-grader Gabriel Allen.

The 12-year-old student at Ni River Middle School said he didn't want to stand for the pledge because he disagrees with many U.S. government policies.

"The Bill of Rights clearly states that I have the right to free speech," Gabriel told the board.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Chris Carlson, News
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Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: 23-17 Pongopi, 7-Chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0032, Japan
FAX: DSN 229-3132; civ. (+41) (202) 808-8936
E-MAIL: Advertising, letters: (ps)stars@psd.mil
Advertising, advertising: (ps)stars@psd.mil

Marketing: marketing@psd.mil
Circulation: circulation@psd.mil

CHARGE OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington
DC 20045-1301, Phone DSN 312-763-0900 or civ. (+1) (202) 761-0900

FAX: (+1) (202) 761-0900, Fax (+1) (202) 761-0890

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Mazzarella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite
350, Washington, DC 20045-1301, Phone DSN 312-763-0945 or civ. (+1) (202) 761-0945

E-MAIL: dmazzarella@psd.mil

EMBASSYMAN: Joe Ungar, Send comments to Embassyman, Stars
and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301, Phone civ. (+1) (202) 761-6032, fax (+1) (202) 761-6036; or e-mail: embodman@starsandstripes.com

How to call us

GENERAL MANAGER: DSN 229-3121; civ. (+41) (3) 3404-9428
REPRINTS: DSN 229-3136; civ. (+41) (3) 3404-9422; e-mail: reprints@starsandstripes.com

SPORTS: Dave Omeiser, DSN 648-7433; civ. (+41) (88) 229-3121; e-mail: omeiser@starsandstripes.com

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News Bureaus

JAPAN

Japan Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, 55002, APO AP 96337-5002;
Tel. DSN 229-3357; civ. (+41) (204) 8442-74; fax DSN 229-3271;
civ. (+1) (8103) 3408-8936; e-mail: aiken@starsandstripes.com

Mizuno: Jennifer E. Swan, Tel. DSN 229-2550; civ. (+1) (76) 5181-081; ext. 226-2550; (81) 3117-66-2550; fax DSN 229-3847; e-mail: swan@starsandstripes.com

News/Feature: Greg Tyler, PSC 476, Box 1125, P.O. Box
96332-1125, Tel. and fax DSN 229-3832; e-mail: gtyler@starsandstripes.com

Yokota/Yokota: Diana Gitter and Hanna Kusumoto, Tel.
DSN 229-3105 and 229-3152; civ. (+1) (81) 3404-9442;
fax DSN 229-3271; e-mail: gitter@starsandstripes.com

Yokota/Camp Zama/Camp Fijji: Vince Little, Unit 5058 APO
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505233 Fax, Tel. DSN 718-2751; or civ. (+41) (3) 3404-9428

Okunawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chuan Samada
and Dennis Camry, Camp Fijji, P.O. Box 96324, Tel.
DSN 645-3807 or civ. (+1) (81) (98) 893-2702;
fax DSN 645-9165; e-mail: okunawa@starsandstripes.com

KOREA

Korea Bureau Chief: Joseph Gordon, Unit 15334, APO
96208-0423, Tel. DSN 721-7132; or civ. (+41) (2) 7270-5334; e-mail: gordon@starsandstripes.com

Camp Red Cloud/Camp Casey: Seth Robson, Address: Stars and
Stripes, c/o HHC 2D PABO, Unit 15041, APO AP 96208-0289;
Tel. civ. (+1) 9609-7134; e-mail: robson@starsandstripes.com

Ocean Air Base/Camp Humphreys: Franklin Fisher, Unit 15334,
APO AP 96278, Tel. DSN 718-2751; or civ. (+41) (3) 3404-9428

Seoul: Ted Weaver and Kwang Ha-yun, Unit 15334, APO
96208-0423, Tel. DSN 721-7132; 721-7132; 721-7134;
civ. (+41) (2) 7270-1327/13734; fax DSN 721-7141; e-mail: kweaver@starsandstripes.com

Taguig: Unit 15334, APO AP 96208-0423, Tel. DSN 721-7131;
721-7132; or 721-7134; civ. (+41) (202) 7270-1327/13734;
fax DSN 721-7133; e-mail: kweaver@starsandstripes.com

WASHINGTON D.C.

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301, Tel. (+1) (202) 761-0895; e-mail: dickson@starsandstripes.com

Lisa Briggs, Tel. civ. (+1) (703) 602-1875; Jan Anderson, Tel. civ. (+1) (703) 602-1875; and Jan Shaw, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301, Tel. civ. (+1) (202) 761-1183;
fax (+1) (202) 761-0900; e-mail: briggs@starsandstripes.com

anderson@starsandstripes.com and shaw@starsandstripes.com

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tion, or any other form of discrimination of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Bonuses needed, equal out

In response to "Angry over re-up bonuses" (letter, Jan. 8). The bonuses are offered for several reasons, whether it be specific job qualifications, shortages in need to staffing positions or to maintain a particular force.

One position that was to be recognized is the fact that for most, the Army Reserve or National Guard is not a career for those who serve. Their careers are in the civilian sector. For some reserve and Guard soldiers, serving has presented an economic difference between civilian and military life.

The retirement system for reserve and Guard soldiers differs vastly from that in the regular Army. I suppose one could find an argument here, since reserve and National Guard soldiers receive the "meat" of their retirement from the civilian sector. However, when they are deployed on active status, that portion is ignored, leaving the civilian retirement nonbeneficial and unable to grow.

So, in my opinion, it all equals out in regard to how bonuses are received.

Stg. Michael Cruse

Camp Mitchell, Kosovo

Any creationism evidence?

I must respond to "Evolution is still a theory" (letter, Dec. 10).

A hypothesis is an untested idea. Hypotheses are tested using scientific methods. Once proved, a hypothesis might become part of a theory. A theory is used to document a work in progress for things that cannot be proved exactly.

For example, "two plus two is four" is a fact with no room for refinement. Gravitation is still theory. "Things fall down" is a hypothesis that was tested and is a fact.

No aspect of evolution explains everything we see. However, the following hypotheses of evolution are so well-documented that they are considered "facts":

■ Specimens with a survival advantage are more likely to pass on their genes and thus the traits that give survival advantage. Over generations, this "natural selection" magnifies these traits. Antibiotic

Tell us what you think

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resistance is one manifestation of natural selection.

■ Mutations leading to new species is well documented in the lab.

■ Experiments have reproduced the evolution of three species of wheat.

■ The hypothesis that a virus can change the DNA of a host is now accepted and used in the laboratory.

I would welcome an article showing scientific evidence supporting creationism. Who are the scientists who "in the past 20 years ... have uncovered data that create dissonance in the original theory of evolution and the big-bang theory?"

Ruth Ann Valentine

Heidelberg, Germany

You're right, you're wrong

In this ever-changing world, where it has been proven over and over that usually both sides are correct with the truth lying somewhere in the middle, why can we not agree on this statement: Evolution is part of intelligent design.

Science and religion are the same thing, both have the ultimate goal of answering this question: Why are we here?

Science deals with exactness, quantifiable observations that can calculate, to ever-increasing precision, the formulae of the "grand design." Religion deals with the abstract, what cannot be calculated but rather can be felt.

I've often equated the two as such: Science is your recording of music on a compact disc; a digital reproduction of the original. Sure, you lose out on some of the ambience, like static or tone, but it is the more-precise representation of the main idea. Religion is like an old record or magnetic tape — an analog recording that captures everything but you lose out on the fine points.

I am well-schooled in the sciences and it sickens me to see such obvious ignorance on the part of those who choose to refuse what is right in front of their face. However, at heart I am a musician, and I know there are some things in this world that come from a more "mystic" source.

So, get a grip, people. You are all incorrect, yet everyone is right; and if you do not understand that, perhaps by intelligent design you have been chosen to be left behind on the evolutionary ladder.

Patrick F. Harlow

Baumholder, Germany

Stripes was always there

Stars and Stripes was introduced to me during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. I really did not think much about it then.

It pursued me to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1996 and I developed a great friendship with Stripes. During my assignment to England and later to Okinawa, I never missed any days without having Stripes at the dinner table.

Now, in Iraq, I would rather have my Stars and Stripes than an evening meal! Following an alarm red, through muddy puddles, freezing cold, smoky nights, I would walk to the dining facility to get my Stars and Stripes.

Thank you for giving me smiles and chuckles; tears and sadness; hope and vision, and best of all, keeping me in touch with the world — all for free. Thanks for all Stripes does for us.

Air Force Col. Sara Sulzjan

Balad Air Base, Iraq

DOONESBURY

by G.B. Trudeau



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Open eyes on morning after
The Spokesman-Review,
Olympia, Wash.

In May, the Food and Drug Administration rejected an application by a drug company to sell an emergency contraceptive without a prescription. Against the advice of his own scientists, acting FDA Director Steven Galson said Barr Pharmaceuticals had not sufficiently supported its contention that women under the age of 16 could safely use the product, called Plan B. He also stated that

Barr's application to limit over-the-counter sales to customers 16 years and older was inadequate. Barr has reworded and resubmitted its application and expects to hear from the FDA this month. In the meantime, the most comprehensive study on the topic was reported recently in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and it debunks the fear that ready access to emergency contraceptives, often called morning-after pills, increases the likelihood that young women will engage in risky sex.

But, of course, politics is the holdup. A conservative administration does not want to be seen as promoting promiscuity, even if that claim has been refuted.

Pundits' production is paltry
The Hawk Eye, Burlington, Iowa

The Federal Communication Commission's recent record fine in the Janet Jackson case suggests that a bare breast shown on TV has a more negative effect on the national psyche than the screaming matches that pass for political discourse on alleged news programs.

And it's not the breast incident so much as the political pundits' constant shouting and screaming that has helped fuel a growing incivility in politics and society.

Yet it's the pundit's clerical ineptitude that bordered on lunacy to the so-called news talk shows. The networks, especially Fox, profit from the audience appeal of screaming-head hosts such as Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity, who happen to be wildly conservative and do their best to berate and silence their guests.

But there was an encouraging sign [this month] that the formulaic bickering format may be on notice. At least at CNN, where new boss Jonathan Klein fired conservative pundit Tucker Carlson and put his "Crossfire" program on hiatus ...

Hopefully CNN, as it reinvents its political programming, will lead the way to a new era of civil discourse and informed leadership instead of assailing their ears and insulting their intelligence.

Pressed to preserve credibility
Florida Today, Melbourne

In an action that showed no respect for an independent press or the American people, the Department of Education last year handed over \$240,000 of taxpayer money to conservative pundit Armstrong Williams.

He was paid to tout the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind Act in his newspaper columns and media appearances — all while pretending the propaganda was really independent and objective commentary.

Immediately after the blatantly unethical deal was uncovered by USA Today, Williams was rightly dumped from his syndicate, Tribune Media Services ...

Right as we were CBS, which Monday fired four executives for relying on possibly forged documents in a "60 Minutes Wednesday" story about President Bush's national character ...

The Williams and CBS cases show the need for news organizations to maintain the



highest ethical standards, and hold journalists accountable when they violate the rules. The credibility of the Fourth Estate is at stake, and the public trust the news media must have to do its job.

Hill ethics policy out of order
Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

At first House Republicans seemed so magnanimous, retreating from an earlier ethics rules change that would have allowed one of their congressmen to keep his leadership post while under indictment on criminal charges. Even GOP leader Tom DeLay, whom that rules change was designed to protect, championed the turnaround. There were congratulations all around for their sense of fair play. And what did House Republicans do then? Why, they ramrodded through another rules change that effectively neutered the ethics committee that rebuked Mr. DeLay three times last year, making it all but impossible for ethics complaints to move forward.

Now a majority vote of that committee will be needed to start an ethics investigation. Thing is, the committee's membership is evenly split between the two parties. The votes, which seem more likely than not in this partisan era, mean the ethics complaints die.

The 109th Congress will be a reform Congress, House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois promised. If so, it's off to a poor start.

Mandela's grief can help fight
Amarillo (Texas) Globe-New

One might think that in the 21st century, society would be able to talk openly about anything. Not true ...

Yet the acknowledgment this month from [former South African President Nelson] Mandela that his [son died of AIDS complications] might open the door to a new age of candor about an affliction that has infected more than 25 million people in Africa alone. The lack of disclosure about AIDS in Africa and Asia comes from the shame many people still associate with the disease. Yes, it is caused by risky behavior — such as unsafe sex and drug use.

However, the disease has gone far beyond any behavior that societies still stigmatize. Children are being born with the disease. Women are getting infected by their husbands, who have sex with other individuals carrying the virus that causes the disease ...

The more candid the world gets from lead-

ers such as Nelson Mandela about AIDS, the better the chances of battling a disease that threatens to wipe out an entire generation in Africa and Asia.

Please, no more silence.

Democrats unfair to Gonzales
The Daily Sentinel,
Grand Junction, Colo.

Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar, in his first week on the job, was at the forefront of a major national political hooha. And rather than side with his own Democratic Party, Salazar apparently is agreeing with GOP President Bush ...

Whoops Salazar also supports [U.S. attorney general nominee Alberto] Gonzales against the attack being lodged against him by Democrats [who] claim that Gonzales is largely responsible for fostering a lackadaisical attitude within the Bush administration toward terror and mistreatment of prisoners in the war on terror ...

Debate about appropriate techniques of interrogating terror suspects and treating other sorts of prisoners is certainly warranted. But Democrats are going to have a hard time painting Gonzales as some of the modern-day Mengele when he has repeatedly opposed the use of physical torture.

If congressional Democrats choose to express a greater sense of outrage toward Gonzales than they do toward people who enjoy participating in videotaped beatings, let them. That's a political judgment they are free to make and one that will ensure them many more years in the political wilderness.

Libraries: No-limit learning
Chicago Tribune

Picture a world without a public library, where books can't be borrowed, where kids can't gather in a reliably safe and friendly place after school, and where computers are only available to those who can afford them.

Salinas, Calif., which spawned Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck, soon may be such a place, a city of 150,000 without a precious resource of knowledge or symbol of community.

The Salinas City Council, strapped for cash, voted Dec. 14 to shut its library system. The system — budgeted at \$3 million annually — circulates 4 million items a year and serves 1,900 people daily.

So what will be lost in Salinas, and perhaps elsewhere, if such a trend starts in Cali-



fornia and crosses the nation? Libraries are more than repositories of books, magazines, newspapers, computers and videos. They're places for children to learn a love of reading, for students to find a quiet space to study and for seniors to settle in a chair with a good novel or a well-thumbed daily paper.

They're open to all, equal access to public services. An inquisitive mind and a thirst for knowledge are the only keys for entry ...

Libraries are worth saving, in Salinas and throughout America.

Chertoff smart homeland pick
Los Angeles Times

Utterly humiliated by his first pick to run the Department of Homeland Security, President Bush has fallen back on a solid second choice, Michael Chertoff, a federal appeals court judge and the former head of the Justice Department's criminal division.

It's not an uncommon pattern in Washington: An ill-advised nomination derailed by scandal tends to focus the mind and lead to smart personnel choices.

Chertoff is known for his keen intellect, probity and the kind of tenacity that led the Justice Department to literally kill off the Arthur Andersen accounting firm in response to the Enron scandal. Chertoff is unlikely to have much patience for bureaucratic infighting or excuses that get in the way of strengthening the new federal department.

Chertoff is a loyal Republican but no ideologue. He was chief counsel on the Senate Whitewater committee. Though he never overstepped his bounds in that role, he should regret his involvement in what turned out to be a groundless vendetta. He was ahead of the curve on the terrorist threat, arguing in 1996 that law enforcement officials needed more power to track down terrorists. His suggestions raised some hackles among civil libertarians, and he later gave them concrete reason to complain. As head of the criminal division of the Justice Department, Chertoff was one of the architects of the Patriot Act ...

To his credit, Chertoff battled at the time against extremists in the Pentagon and the White House who wanted to rely on military tribunals to try suspected terrorists ... At his confirmation hearing, Chertoff should be asked to clarify his current thinking on the proper balancing of freedom and security. Then again, [when it comes to getting this unlikely bureaucracy working] effectively to protect the country, a tough prosecutor with a brilliant mind may be just what we need.

YOUR MONEY



LATV

When she had a cold recently, San Diego public relations manager Christine Benton called in sick to set an example for her co-workers. She says the lesson seems to be working.

Sick day is healthy choice

From vaccine shortage evolves anti-heroism work ethic

BY MELISSA HEALY
Los Angeles Times

When a miserable cold struck Kim Colabella in early December, duty called. Her supervisor and several colleagues were out of the office, and Colabella determined that, ailing or not, she needed to keep things going. So she took a cold pill, packed up her tissues and soldiered on to work.

But when Colabella arrived at Corporate Wellness Inc., a Mount Kisco, N.Y., company that coordinates employee health services for other companies, her sniffling, red-eyed arrival won her a decidedly chilly reception. A co-worker followed her around with a box of disinfectant wipes, swabbing down any surface she touched. Fellow employees reared back in horror when she came near and finally banished her to her cubicle. The stricken office worker dared not emerge, even for lunch, and used the fax and copy machines only when she had accumulated enough paperwork to make a single trip.

In another year, Colabella's devotion to her employer would have been lauded. This time, she was as welcome at work as Typhoid Mary.

And her transformation from would-be hero to workplace pariah has a simple explanation: the recent shortage of flu vaccine.

Most healthy adults — more than 95 percent, by the federal government's latest reckoning — are entering the flu season unvaccinated. The shortage and subsequent rationing have eased in some states; in California, for example, health officials have ended all age restrictions for the vaccine. At this point, however, most of the nation's healthy workers probably will remain unvaccinated through the season.

As a result, "presenteeism" — the practice of showing up to work sick — is now on the agenda of human-resources departments throughout the United States.

Whether it's a flu, cold or stomach virus going around, companies and their employees are realizing that it takes just one employee coming to work sick to spark a vaccine outbreak and set off waves of absenteeism down the line.

"All of a sudden, people are talking about it," says Ron Goetzl, a Cornell University/Medstat economist who studies the phenomenon of working while ill. "It wasn't in people's vocabulary a year ago."

Now, he says, "employees are realizing there are real costs to it."

This year especially, says workplace analyst Lori Rosen, "the idea of the 'hero-worker' that manages to punch in for a full day's work despite illness needs to be discouraged." Contagious workers jeopardize the health and productivity of all employees, she says. So their bosses need to emphasize that while they need their employees at work, "they first want a healthy workplace," says Rosen, of CCH Associates, a human-resources consulting firm.

As cold and flu season begins to take hold, companies across the country are issuing memos and posting signs in workplace restrooms, urging workers to wash their hands frequently, cover their coughs and sneezes, get enough rest and eat nutritious foods. Usually appearing at the bottom of this stay-well litany is an admonishment that few bosses have ever issued before, and many — even now — issue through gritted teeth: If you're sick, stay home, employees are being told.

And don't come back until you're better. This workplace edict comes not out of a sudden Ebenezer Scrooge-like conversion of bosses everywhere.

They're scared: not of the flu itself — with its high fevers and aching muscles — but of an unvaccinated workforce decimated by it, causing missed deadlines, blown production runs and shoddy work.

Garden-variety viruses are bad enough, but the flu packs a punch that can last a week or more.

This past fall, 60 percent of the large employers polled by the Society for Human Resources Management said they were planning to offer flu shots or sponsor flu vaccine clinics for their employees this year. During last year's flu season, widespread efforts helped push flu inoculation levels among healthy Americans to historic levels — nearly 1 in 4 healthy adults younger than 65 got the shot.

But this year, virtually all such plans were scrubbed after government regulators condemned roughly half the nation's projected supply of flu vaccine because of contamination at Chiron Corp.'s British manufacturing plant. While 27 million doses were quickly set aside for babies, the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions, healthy workers have faced the flu season armed with little more than hand sanitizer and a heightened wariness.

SEE SICK ON PAGE 29

New Year's chores for homeowners

BY HOLDEN LEWIS
bankrate.com

Tune up your mortgage. Check to see if your taxes and insurance are being paid correctly. Get a carbon monoxide detector.

These are some of the mortgage- and housing-related New Year's resolutions offered by experts. You don't have to tackle them all now, but as a homeowner, you would benefit by doing most or all of these things at some point in 2003.

■ Give yourself a mortgage tune-up.

This resolution, offered by David Hall, senior vice president of Quicken Loans, sounds simpler than it is. The central idea is this, Hall says: "You can't put your mortgage in a drawer and be done with it."

Instead, he says, you have to view your mortgage as part of your overall financial plan, matching changing needs with changing goals.

Among the most critical of these changing needs: the time you plan to live in the house.

Hall thinks too many homeowners get 30-year fixed loans and waste money. Instead, they should get three- or five-year hybrid ARMs, which start out with a low rate that lasts three or five years, then adjusts annually after that.

"Most folks tend to live in their home a little shorter than they should be able to," Hall says. "When you take a 30-year, you're taking a risk. You're paying more and your risk is that if you move in three or four years, you've lost a lot of money."

■ Review your credit report.

"I think most Americans don't know their credit score," Hall says, and he thinks that should change. Check your credit reports for inaccuracies, too.

Confirm whether the mortgage servicing company is paying the insurance and taxes correctly.

If you have a mortgage, a servicing company is supposed to make sure the taxes and insurance are paid on time. Sometimes the company goes. Call the insurance company and the county tax collector once or twice a year to make sure the mortgage servicing company is doing its job correctly.

■ Find out whether you should move credit card debt to your home's equity.

Home equity debt generally is tax-deductible, with rates that are far below those on credit cards. You can save a lot of money by paying off your credit card debt with a home equity loan or equity line of credit.

The surest road to debt is to consolidate your credit card debts into a home equity loan, then charge up the cards to the max again. If you do that, charge some nice clothes on your credit cards so you'll look presentable in bankruptcy court.

■ Make sure your homeowners insurance is sufficient.

"You should periodically contact your insurer to make sure you're covered for home improvements or increases in value and to make sure you're properly covered for any type of risk," says Gary Bierfield, corporate president of MortgageIT.

■ Draw up a will if you haven't done one, and make sure it's up to date.

This resolution is suggested by Neil Garfinkel, a lawyer with Abrams Garfinkel Margolis Bergson in New York. "You're never too young to have a will," Garfinkel says. "Owning a home makes a will even more important."

■ Check smoke detectors and buy a carbon monoxide detector.

This is another resolution suggested by Garfinkel. Test smoke detectors at least twice a year. January is as good a time as any. A carbon monoxide detector could save your life, especially if you have a furnace that burns oil or gas. Garfinkel suggests getting your chimney swept, too.

AM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — KANTO

EAGLE 810

Morning (Sun)

7:55 Religious Programming

12:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz)

Afternoon

12:00 American Country Countdown

4:00 A Prairie Home Companion

Evening

6:00 Focus on the Family

3:00 Travel Radio

7:00 Dr. Laura

8:00 Beale Street Caravan

9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)

12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)(Mon-Fri)

2:00 Sports Overnight America

5:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation (Tue-Fri)

4:00 NPR On the Media (Mon)

5:00 NPR Live on Earth (Mon)

Morning (Mon-Fri)

6:00 Eagle 810 Morning Show (Contemporary)

7:00 Paul Harvey News and Commentary

7:20 Pacific Report

7:30 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story

7:50 Eagle 810 News

7:30 Zama Commander's Corner (1st & 4th Friday)

Yokota/USFJ Chiefs' Corner (3rd Friday)

10:00 Radio Cafe (70s, 80s, 90s)

Afternoon

12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)

12:25 Pacific Report

12:47 Paul Harvey News and Commentary

12:51 Air Force Radio News

2:00 Top 40 Music

4:00 Traffic Jamz (Current Chart Hits)

4:05 Pacific Report

4:27 AFN Sportspage

4:12 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story

Evening

6:00 From the Bench Live Sports (Wed)

7:00 NPR's Morning Edition Live

Yokokusa Commander's Corner (1st & 3rd Thursday)

8:00 Rush Limbaugh

9:00 The Touch (Urban)/Mon/Country/

Tue/Pure Gold (Oldies); Wed/Rock of

the 70s (Classic Rock); Thu/The Touch

(Urban); Fri

12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)

2:00 Sports Overnight America

5:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live

Morning (Sat)

6:00 NPR's All Things Considered Live

9:00 NPR's Talk

9:00 Kim Komando

10:00 Classic Rock

Afternoon

12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40

12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)

Evening

6:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night

7:00 The Touch (Urban)

12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)

2:00 Sports Overnight America

4:00 Adult Contemporary

POWER 107.5

Morning (Sun)

7:00 NPR: All Things Considered

FM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — YOKOTA

FM CABLE Radio Services (On Base Only)

2:00 Z-Rock (Alternative) 90.3 FM

Eagle 810 (Variety) 90.7 FM

National Public Radio (News, Talk) 91.3 FM

Adult AC (Pop) 91.7 FM

Bright Rock (Classic Rock) 92.3 FM

The Touch (Urban) 92.7 FM

Country 93.3 FM

Pure Gold (Oldies) 93.3 FM

Hot AC (Today's Hits) 94.3 FM

National Public Radio

Morning (Sun)

6:00 Weekend All Things Considered

8:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night

11:00 Jazz

Afternoon

12:00 Beethoven Network

1:00 Weekend All Things Considered

2:00 Dialogue

2:30 Uncommon Knowledge

3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network

3:00 Jazz Profiles

Evening

6:00 Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me

7:00 A Prairie Home Companion

9:00 Weekend Edition Sunday

11:00 Justice Talking

12:00 Fresh Air Weekend

12:00 This American Life

7:00 The World

8:00 Marketplace

8:30 Rewind

9:00 The WFMT Beethoven Network

8:00 Rush Limbaugh

9:00 Parent's Journal

10:00 Chris's Table

11:00 Sports Overnight America

Afternoon

12:00 Adult Rock

4:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)

Evening

10:00 The Touch (Urban)

10:00 The Touch (Urban)

3:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)

Morning (Mon-Fri)

6:00 Morning Air Strike

6:30 Paul Harvey News

7:10 Horoscope

7:30 Inside Inwaku Radio News

8:30 Rest of the Story

8:35 David Letterman/Leno

9:00 Country Call Up

10:00 Bright AC/Oldies (Fri)

11:00 Urban Assault

Afternoon

10:00 Z-Rock/Oldies (Fri)

2:00 The Afterburner

2:30 Inside Inwaku Radio News

2:34 Rest of the Story

2:35 Pacific Report

3:30 Paul Harvey News

4:30 AFN Sportspage

4:00 Departure Time

Evening

10:00 NPR: Fresh Air

7:00 The Rock Show (Mon/Old School

Thu/The Mosh Pit (Fri)

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6:00 Matt In the Morning

9:00 Hot AC

Afternoon

12:00 Classic Rock

3:00 Edge Afternoon Radio

Evening

6:00 Country

8:00 R&B

7:00 Hot AC

Morning (Fri)

12:00 Z-Rock

2:00 Classic Rock

4:00 Sports Overnight America

5:00 Rush Limbaugh

6:00 Matt In the Morning

9:00 Flashback

11:00 Hot AC

12:00 Classic Rock

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STRIPE CLASSIFIED

Home Electronics 570

Kadena, Okinawa - Shine On Me Musical Micros - paid \$45 asking \$25. Nothing here like the Place. Shines can use remote to play. Only used for 100. Call 633-8133 or email shinedon@yahoo.com for photos and detailed description.

Sony Kinos - 15 channel mixer. Good for live sound. Unlabeled for use. See Sound House 710 for more info.

Jewelry 610

Kadena, Okinawa - 14K Anise ring with 10K matching pendant - both set with 10K yellow gold. Shimmering set especially a good shimmering set. Like new. Asking \$400. o.b.o. beauden@yahoo.com or call 633-4126.

Kadena, Okinawa - Beautiful 14K white gold wedding ring. Princess cut center diamond. 1.00 carat. 14K white gold. Asking \$1000. beauden@yahoo.com or call 633-4126.

Kadena, Okinawa - MAJOR PRICE CUT! 14K white gold wedding ring - center diamond. 1.00 carat. 14K white gold. Asking \$1000. beauden@yahoo.com or call 633-4126.

Outdoor Living 775

Foster, Okinawa - 1 Sleeping Bag \$4.00. Call 644-3107.

PCS Sale 780

Kinsey, Okinawa - PCS Sale. Have lots of things to get rid of. Shirts, shoes, luggage, clothes, shoes, cleaning supplies, vacuum, miscellaneous items. Please. Make them. Name a price and come get it all. Call 637-4388 or email kinsey@yahoo.com

Pets 820

Courtesy - 1 year old black female Labrador Retriever. All shots are up to date. Great dog but we already have a puppy and my wife is about to deliver our first baby. So it is too much for us now. \$500. interested? Call 622-2275 anytime. Beth...

Jobs Offered 630

Are you interested in supporting military history not just reading about it?



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 - 1 USMC Germany (Immediate Vacyon)
 - 1 USN Tokyo (Immediate Vacyon)
 - 1 USN Tokyo (Photo Journalist (PCP 05))
 - 1 USA JP/GE (Future billet available soon)
 - 1 USA JP/GE (Future billet available soon)

Reservists:

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<http://www.stripes.com/jobs.html>

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Pets 820

Palmer, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

Kadena - Free to good home 1 year old female pit bull. She is black and white. Very good with other dogs and kids. Life is hard, microchipped and current on shots. Just don't have time for her now. We will be in town working. Please call 633-8886.

Kadena - Free to good home 1 year old female pit bull. She is black and white. Very good with other dogs and kids. Life is hard, microchipped and current on shots. Just don't have time for her now. We will be in town working. Please call 633-8886.

Kadena-FTGH 7 month old female not mix. Gets along with other animals and loves the kids. Kernal trained, housetrained, has all shots and is fixed. Shots are not due until December 2005. Also microchipped and comes with kernal. Email: kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena-FTGH 7 month old female not mix. Gets along with other animals and loves the kids. Kernal trained, housetrained, has all shots and is fixed. Shots are not due until December 2005. Also microchipped and comes with kernal. Email: kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

KADENA- FTGH 20 female cat. need a home ASAP. both are spayed and up to date on their shots. we will pay you to take care of them. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - 2 Ch. mix dogs. 1 male, 1 female. Both are spayed and up to date on their shots. we will pay you to take care of them. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - All American pit bull puppies born Dec 27. We need for pet or show. By Valentines Day. They are registered. Please call 644-3107 for more info. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - FREE! 3-month old female. Very playful and playful. She is grey with white. A new place for her couldn't take her. We already have a new place and don't know anyone who will pay for first shot. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - FTGH 8-month old female. Tan and black. Up to date on all shots. Kernal trained. Party trained. Great with other animals. PCing and cart take her. Email: kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Pets 820

Kadena, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

Kadena - Free to good home 1 year old female pit bull. She is black and white. Very good with other dogs and kids. Life is hard, microchipped and current on shots. Just don't have time for her now. We will be in town working. Please call 633-8886.

Kadena - Free to good home 1 year old female pit bull. She is black and white. Very good with other dogs and kids. Life is hard, microchipped and current on shots. Just don't have time for her now. We will be in town working. Please call 633-8886.

Kadena-FTGH 7 month old female not mix. Gets along with other animals and loves the kids. Kernal trained, housetrained, has all shots and is fixed. Shots are not due until December 2005. Also microchipped and comes with kernal. Email: kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena-FTGH 7 month old female not mix. Gets along with other animals and loves the kids. Kernal trained, housetrained, has all shots and is fixed. Shots are not due until December 2005. Also microchipped and comes with kernal. Email: kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

KADENA- FTGH 20 female cat. need a home ASAP. both are spayed and up to date on their shots. we will pay you to take care of them. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - 2 Ch. mix dogs. 1 male, 1 female. Both are spayed and up to date on their shots. we will pay you to take care of them. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - All American pit bull puppies born Dec 27. We need for pet or show. By Valentines Day. They are registered. Please call 644-3107 for more info. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - FREE! 3-month old female. Very playful and playful. She is grey with white. A new place for her couldn't take her. We already have a new place and don't know anyone who will pay for first shot. Call 633-8448 or email kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Kadena, Okinawa - FTGH 8-month old female. Tan and black. Up to date on all shots. Kernal trained. Party trained. Great with other animals. PCing and cart take her. Email: kadenaftgh11@hotmail.com or call 633-8448.

Toys 945

Foster, Okinawa - Little Tykes Country, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

Foster, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

Foster, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

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Foster, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

Miscellaneous 1040

Courtesy - 1 year old black female Labrador Retriever. All shots are up to date. Great dog but we already have a puppy and my wife is about to deliver our first baby. So it is too much for us now. \$500. interested? Call 622-2275 anytime. Beth...

Foster, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

Foster, Okinawa - 1 year old male black and white pit bull. Broken tail. Call 644-3107.

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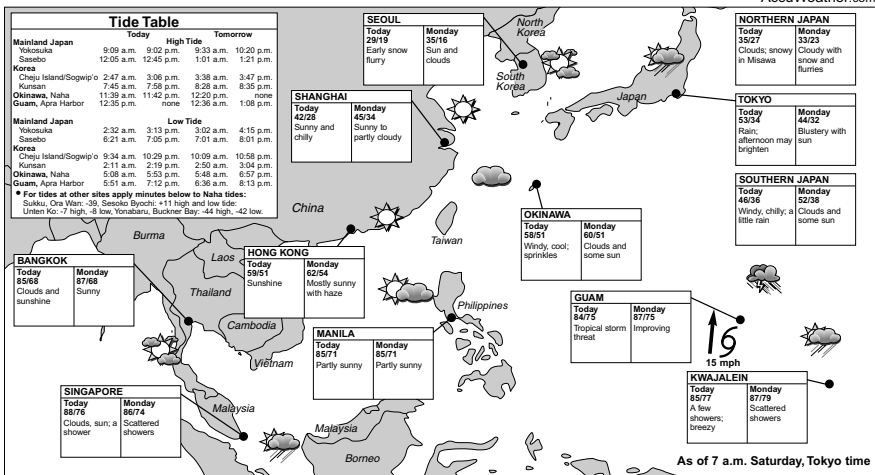
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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 45, low 35.
 Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 50, low 40.

KADENA
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 64, low 51.
 Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 66, low 53.

SEUL
 Tuesday: Snow, high 32, low 14.
 Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 30, low 12.

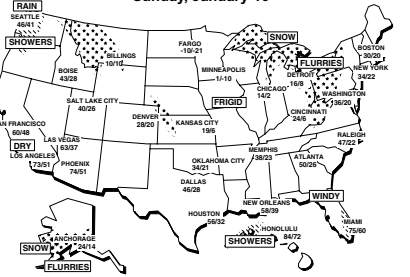
MANILA
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 71.
 Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 73.

HAGATNA
 Tuesday: Showers, high 87, low 73.
 Wednesday: Showers, high 87, low 75.

Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	53/26	Los Angeles	69/47
Amarillo	48/18	Little Rock	42/22
Anchorage	18/11	Louisville	35/17
Ashville	45/24	Miami	82/67
Baltimore	51/24	Milwaukee	12/-2
Birmingham	52/28	Nashville	42/24
Bismarck	-3/-25	New York	59/24
Boise	34/22	Omaha	3/-8
Boston	63/21	Orlando	71/56
Brownsville	69/42	Philadelphia	58/26
Buffalo	34/15	Phoenix	68/47
Burlington	35/12	Pittsburgh	34/14
Charleston, SC	66/39	Portland, OR	40/30
Charlotte	58/32	Portland, ME	55/18
Chicago	30/12	Salt Lake City	40/23
Columbus, OH	32/11	St. Louis	23/5
Duluth	-4/-22	San Antonio	58/28
El Paso	56/30	San Diego	65/48
Hartford	60/19	San Juan	84/72
Helena	-2/-13	Tampa	69/54
Indianapolis	24/12	Tulsa	35/12
Jacksonville	63/46	Washington	54/28
Kansas City	16/3	Wichita	22/7

Sunday, January 16



U.S. Extended Forecast

Unseasonably cold weather will continue to stretch from the northern Rockies into the Northeast on Sunday. The cold air blowing over the Great Lakes will cause some snow to fall downwind of the lakes. Meanwhile, plenty of clouds will cover the Southeast as a storm system inches away from the coast; showers will dampen parts of Florida and along the extreme coast. Rain and mountain snow will accompany another storm system moving northward through the Pacific Northwest; some snow will extend over the northern Rockies. An area of high pressure will keep the precipitation away from the Southwest. The bitterly cold air will remain in place across the northern Plains and Upper Midwest through Monday.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	85/68	Iwakuni	46/34
Beijing	40/22	Kadena AB	58/51
Camp Casey	33/17	Kunsan AB	38/26
Diego Garcia	70/67	Kwajalein	85/77
Hagatna	86/78	Manila	85/71
Hanoi	84/75	Masawa AB	35/27
Hong Kong	62/52	Osan	35/19
Honolulu	59/51	Perth	87/68
		Pusan	42/30

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	89/72	Kabul	41/5
Athens	39/27	Buenos Aires	86/66
Auckland	79/65	Cairo	59/39
Baghdad	62/39	Cancun	75/63
Barbados	83/69	Cape Town	84/65
Barcelona	53/41	Geneva	45/38
Berlin	37/34	Islamabad	41/37
Bermuda	74/62	Jerusalem	56/35
Brussels	47/37	Johannesburg	77/54
		Moscow	18/11
		Nairobi	83/54
		New Delhi	68/35
		Oslo	37/31
		Paris	46/37
		Rio de Janeiro	86/69
		Rome	43/30
		St. Petersburg	25/18
		Stockholm	38/32
		Warsaw	31/25



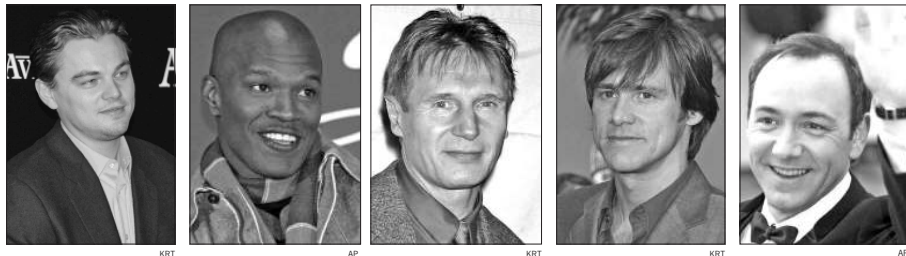
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These actors — Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Liam Neeson, Jim Carrey and Kevin Spacey — are front-runners for Academy Award nominations for the best male lead of 2004.

Q The Oscar nominations come out Jan. 25. How do you see the race shaping up for Best Actor? — D. Watts, Barnstable, Mass.

A Our Top 5 includes Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles in "Ray," Liam Neeson as Alfred Kinsey in "Kinsey," Leonardo DiCaprio as Howard Hughes in "The Aviator," Kevin Spacey as Bobby Darin in "Beyond the Sea" and Jim Carrey (the only one who played a fictional character) in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

Q Every Hollywood actor seems to have a personal trainer. Who's the hottest trainer of them all? — Bea Bell, Raleigh, N.C.

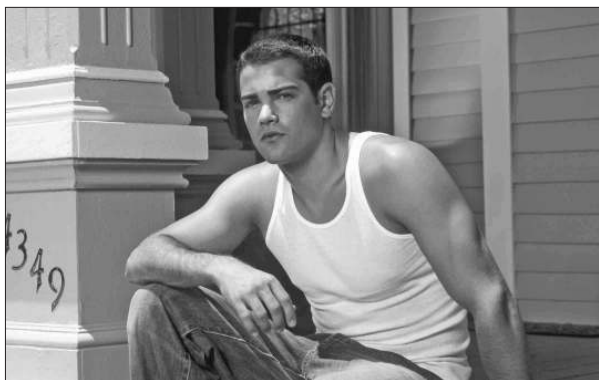
A Right now, it's Gunnar Peterson, 42. His client list includes Lucy Liu, Ben Affleck, J.Lo, Sly Stallone, Kim Basinger, Penelope Cruz and Angelina Jolie. "Even celebrities have to bang it out every day to stay in great shape," Peterson tells us. He shares his fitness philosophy — which includes limiting carbs to early in the day and sipping water for sodas and fruit juice — in "G-Force," new from ReganBooks.

Q Is it true that Gloria Estefan plans to star in a biopic about singer Connie Francis? — John S., Chicago

A Yes. In fact, Estefan, 47, and Francis, 66, are collaborating on the screenplay. "We start at age 3," Francis told us from her Florida home. "And we don't whitewash my troubles, including four bad marriages, a rape, the murder of my brother, a decade of manic depression, institutionalization, a suicide attempt and shock treatments." Now stabilized with medication, Francis often gives concerts and performs her signature song, "Who's Sorry Now?"



Gloria Estefan is busy cooking up a screenplay about troubled singer Connie Francis.



Jesse Metcalfe plays the hunky help that one desperate housewife can't keep her hands off of.

Q What's the skinny on the actor who plays Eva Longoria's boy toy in "Desperate Housewives"? — K. Couch, Atlanta

A Jesse Metcalfe, who plays John, the 17-year-old gardener bedding his married employer, is actually 26 — well past the age of consent. The former NYU film student honed his seduction skills on the soap "Passions." Off-camera, he enjoys the perks of his hit show: a house in the Hollywood Hills, a classic 1967 Camaro and his own band, Raw Power Moves.

Q How has Donna Hanover handled her divorce from "America's Mayor," Rudy Giuliani? — Jane Richards, Camden, N.J.

A "My life is joyful," says Hanover, 54, who has a recurring role on "Law & Order" and hosts the syndicated show "Famous Homes & Hideaways." "I married Ed Oster, my high school sweetheart, in 2003. And our love story inspired me to write a book, 'My Boyfriend's Back.' " It's due this week from Penguin publishing.

Q I see that new mom Gwyneth Paltrow isn't making moves for the time being. Is there another young actress who handles classical parts as well as Gwynnie? — Anne Carson, Reno, Nev.

A Yes. Lynn Collins, 25, now earning raves as Portia in "The Merchant of Venice" with Al Pacino. The Texas native credits her success to a love of literature and her spiritual practice. "I use visualizations to help me create a positive life," she tells us. Next: a biopic about Charlotte Brontë.

Q We haven't heard much from Ruben Studdard. What's he up to? — Donna Meier, Winton, Minn.

A "I did four videos and an inspirational album, 'I Need an Angel,'" Ruben, 26, told us. "I ain't broke no more." But the "American Idol" champ will need more than an angel if he doesn't shed some of his 400-plus pounds. He was hospitalized in November for exhaustion and had to cancel several shows.

Q Your item on Marli Nixon singing for Natalie Wood as Maria in "West Side Story" made me wonder: Who sang for Richard Beymer as Tony? — Rudy Koch, East Windsor, N.J.

A Jimmy Bryant did the singing as Tony, Maria's star-crossed lover, in that 1961 classic. "It was tricky," recalls Bryant, 75. "I had to sing better than Richard [now 66] but still sound like a street kid."

Q Where is my favorite Broadway star, Michael Crawford?

A — Stephen Barnes, Colorado Springs, Colo.
He's starring in the London production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical, "The Woman in White." Crawford (who turns 63 this week) last appeared on London's West End 18 years ago in another Lloyd Webber production: "The Phantom of the Opera," which made his reputation as a musical star.

FACES

Happy to be 'Arrested'

Comedian David Cross glad he joined cast of characters on TV comedy

BY TERRY MORROW

Scripts Howard

David Cross had a revelation three days into doing the second episode of "Arrested Development."

"I realized this is worth it," he recalls.

Not that he didn't think it going in, but Cross was glad for a little reassurance.

"I was never looking for this," says the standup comedian who plays the sexually ambiguous former therapist Tobias Fünke on the Emmy-winning comedy, now in its second season in the States.

The off-beat series, which follows the eccentric Bluth family in a faux-documentary style, also stars sitcom veterans Jason Bateman ("The Hogan Family," "Silver Spoons") and Jeffrey Tambor ("The Larry Sanders Show").

When he got the pilot-episode script, heavily recommended from friends, he already had his excuses ready on why he would not do a series.

"It wasn't anything against TV, but I didn't want to leave New York and work in Los Angeles. I wasn't interested in doing the [Arrested] characters they wanted me to do, but I gravitated to Tobias. He was so needy. I knew I could do a lot with him," Cross says.

Tobias couldn't be any different from him, and finding Cross on prime-time network television is a bit of a stretch, too. Most of his career has been devoted to edgy and politically incorrect comedy from standup.

For most of last season, Tobias was seeking a professional identity after his therapy practice ended. To give you an idea of Tobias's sensibilities,

he lost his license after giving CPR to a sunbather who didn't need it. Tobias also unsuccessfully explored work as a thespian and as a member of the Blue Man Group.

Tobias wants desperately to fit in. He's part of the show's dysfunctional Bluth family by marriage — wife Lindsay is played by Portia de Rossi — but his quirky attributes actually make him a perfect fit. In fact, Tobias is the kind of person Cross mocks in his standup act.

"There was no description in the script on how to play him," Cross says. "So I thought of him as kind of an older hippie, New Age, psychonaut, but also like a Dick Cavett, kind of an Upper East Side, turn-of-the-century-type."

"I'm nothing like him. I am as far away from that character as you can imagine."

At 17, Cross left his native Atlanta for Boston, where he attended college and got into standup. After moving to Los Angeles, he met Bob Odenkirk while working as a writer for "The Ben Stiller Show." The two collaborated to create the acclaimed sketch comedy series "Mr. Show" for HBO in 1995.

Cross moved back to New York three years ago, but "Arrested" has him doing the bicoastal thing.

He has parlayed his standup popularity into CDs. A DVD titled "Let America Laugh" chronicles his life on the road during a recent tour.

He has done mainstream work, too. He had a role in "Men in Black" and a memorable part as a man pretending to be mentally handicapped and spouting phrases such as "chicken pot pie" on the NBC comedy "Just Shoot Me."



Portia de Rossi, as Lindsay Lohan, goes on a shopping spree when she lands a role in a commercial that her husband, Tobias (David Cross), auditioned for in an episode of "Arrested Development." Cross said he is nothing like his "Arrested" character, the hapless Tobias Fünke, but he found he could do a lot with the role.

Photos courtesy of Fox



All in the family: The "Arrested Development" cast includes, from left, Tony Hale, David Cross, Will Arnett, Portia de Rossi, Michael Cera, Alia Shawkat, Jason Bateman, Jessica Walter and Jeffrey Tambor.

Beckham voices fund-raising plea

England captain and Real Madrid star David Beckham has filmed a 30-second public service announcement for UNICEF to help raise funds for tsunami victims.

Beckham, who was appointed Wednesday as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, filmed the message in Copenhagen, Denmark, during a visit to UNICEF's supply division, which is key to the organization's emergency response division.

UNICEF said Beckham's message would be a valuable fund-raising tool as the organization seeks to raise \$143 million to help the 1.5 million children affected by the disaster in southern Asia and parts of Africa.

"The global TV appeal he has recorded will be enormously useful," said executive director Carol Bellamy.



Beckham

Martin visits nation wrecked by tsunami

Pop singer Ricky Martin says he knew he had to come to Thailand to help after watching the devastating scenes of the Asian tsunami.

"After looking at those images on television, it was impossible for me to stay at home with my arms crossed," said Martin, who arrived Wednesday in Bangkok.

The 33-year-old Puerto Rico native talked about the Ricky Martin Foundation's anti-trafficking People for Children project, and the momentum he hopes to bring to the relief efforts in Thailand.

"Music has given me the opportunity to reach masses of people," said Martin, whose hits include "She Bangs," "Shake Your Bon-Bon" and "Livin' La Vida Loca."

He said he felt a need to give back, particularly to children, and to add to the efforts of the Thai government and international organizations.

Martin said he wants to figure out what his foundation can do to help, whether it is building orphanages and schools or producing charity events.



Martin

Who's the greatest American ever?

Discovery Channel and America Online are joining in a national contest to name the "Greatest American" ever.

Starting Thursday, online voters can throw their support behind the person they believe "most influenced the way they think, work and live," according to a statement from Discovery Channel and AOL.

The top nominees will be listed in March, with Discovery planning a seven-hour, four-night series in the spring about the leading vote-getters and the winner.

Cross "brings a whole new style, a whole new tempo" to the show, says Bateman. "Everybody's method is different, but he is from a whole different world again. His friendship is even more important to me."

"He is an incredibly intelligent, thoughtful, gentle guy. He is one of the most quality people in my life right now."

The first episode will air in May and will profile a selection from the top 100 nominees. The list will be pared down by further online voting, with the No. 1 choice profiled on the final episode in June.

From March through May, Discovery Channel will provide AOL with biographies of leading candidates in news, sports, entertainment and other categories.

Bush twins' inaugural fashions set

It's their dad's day, but look for President Bush's twin daughters to make a statement of their own at next week's inaugural balls in sexy, stylish Badgley Mischka gowns. Jenna Bush plans to wear an emerald silk crepe column gown with metallic green banding and jeweled insets at the hip. "It looks gorgeous on her," said Mark Badgley, with partner, James Mischka, designed the dress.

Barbara's dress is a little more dramatic and romantic. Badgley described it as a pale aquamarine silk chiffon gown with a plunging neckline, a ruffle seam skirt and jeweled straps.

"I get the feeling they are interested in fashion. They are always dressed beautifully," Badgley said, noting that they are among the few 23-year-olds who need several gowns in their closets.

"We were honored enough to get a phone call from the White House," he said. "It was like, 'Oh my God, it's the White House on the phone!'"

Stories and photos from wire services

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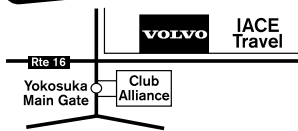
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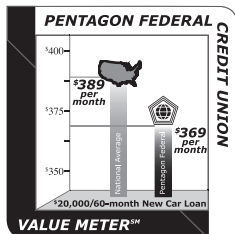


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Floyd planning to stay at Southern Cal

Trojans return to former Iowa St. coach after Majerus' quick departure

By KEN PETERS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tim Floyd plans to remain at Southern California longer than the Trojans' previous basketball coach.

"This will be my last pro or college job. My last job, period," Floyd said Friday in a news conference. "We're tired of moving."

He takes the job Rick Majerus accepted last month and then abandoned five days later. Henry Bibby was fired as coach four games into this season.

Floyd returns to the college game after coaching the Chicago Bulls for about four years, then the New Orleans Hornets last season. After successes at Idaho, the

University of New Orleans and Iowa State, he was a flop in the pro game.

Floyd, 50, hopes he can do for the basketball program what Pete Carroll has accomplished with the national championship football team.

Floyd flashed his sense of humor often, which may help get him through what may be several dreary seasons with the Trojans. They have only four scholarship players returning next year and no center or power forward.

Floyd was not the first choice for the job.

"I fully understand why Rick Majerus was the first choice," he said.

"He's a phenomenal coach. I

think if my wife was really choosing, I probably wouldn't have been her first choice, either."

Floyd said he was down on the list of candidates for the other college head coaching jobs but the first choice for the two NBA posts he's held. Floyd chuckled and said, "And that didn't work out too well."

Floyd will work on recruiting until taking control of the team April 1. Jim Saia, promoted from assistant to interim head coach when Bibby was let go, will run the team for the rest of this season.

Tim Floyd will turn our program around," athletic director Mike Garrett said.

"He has proven several times that he can do it on the college level."

Floyd said his goal is to have the Trojans match up with Arizona, which has consistently been the Pac-10's best team in recent years.

Floyd spent 12 years as a college head coach, going 35-25 at Idaho, then 127-58 at New Orleans, where his teams made two appearances in the NCAA tournaments. He went from there to Iowa State, where he guided the Cyclones to three consecutive 20-win seasons.

Replacing Phil Jackson as Bulls coach in the post-Michael Jordan era, Floyd was 49-190 before he resigned 25 games into the 2001-02 season. He coached the Hornets to a 41-41 record and into the playoffs last season, but was fired last May.

After compiling a 243-130 record at Idaho, University of New Orleans and Iowa State, Tim Floyd was a combined 90-231 as the coach of the Chicago Bulls and New Orleans Hornets.

Williams, depleted Duke surge past N.C. State

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Duke's supposed lack of depth might not matter much if Shelden Williams keeps playing this well.

Williams scored 18 of his 22 points in the second half to help the fifth-ranked Blue Devils beat North Carolina State 86-74 on Thursday night.

Daniel Ewing added 17 points for Duke (12-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Behind Williams, the Blue Devils scored on nine straight possessions midway through the second half to charge ahead after trailing by 10 early. Duke got strong performances from inexperienced players Lee Melchionni and freshman DeMarcus Nelson, who have been pressed into significant minutes because of the Blue Devils' thin bench.

It was hardly a vintage Duke victory, filled with the quick scoring runs that carried the Blue Devils to three national championships in 14 years. But with just eight recruited scholarship players on the roster, it's the way they will have to grind through a tough ACC season.

Not that their Hall of Fame coaches seem to mind.

"I really love my team and they are so much fun," Mike Krzyzewski

Men's Top 25 Roundup

ki said. "They're not (Christian) Laettner or (Elton) Brand, but they make plays. I enjoy watching the evolution of this team and I'm just so proud of what they're accomplishing."

It was a different feeling for the Wolfpack (10-5, 0-2), who have lost four straight games for the first time since the 1999-00 season. N.C. State reached No. 12 in the nation last month, but its once-promising season appears headed in the wrong direction.

That included another shaky outing from Julius Hodge, the league's reigning player of the year. Hodge finished with 13 points and five turnovers.

"I think our team is going through a tough stretch and I think we're all frustrated," Wolfpack coach Herb Sendek said. "We understand the answer is not to panic or flinch. We've got to come closer together and work harder."

Duke had taken 29 of 34 meetings into overtime on Thursday's game, but the Wolfpack had beaten the Blue Devils at the RBC Center in each of the past two seasons. Last year, N.C. State's 78-74



Duke's Daniel Ewing drives past North Carolina State's Cameron Bennerman on Thursday at the RBC Center in Raleigh, N.C. Ewing scored 17 points as the No. 5 Blue Devils defeated the Wolfpack 86-74.

win knocked Duke from the No. 1 ranking.

The Blue Devils appeared on their way to a third straight win and loss to the Wolfpack. They trailed 28-18 midway through the first half against the Wolfpack's aggressive and physical defense,

which had seven steals in the period to take a 41-38 lead at the break.

But Williams — a rugged 6-foot-9, 250-pound junior — took charge right when the Blue Devils needed him most. After taking just two shots in the first half, he went 7-for-10 from the floor after the break and was virtually unstoppable in the paint.

He did all of that despite picking up his third foul with 19 minutes left.

Williams also got plenty of help from Melchionni and Nelson.

Melchionni had a career-high 16 points, which included a three-pointer and basket during that nine-possession run. Nelson added 15 points.

The Blue Devils were playing without forwards Shavlik Randolph, who has mononucleosis, and Reggie Love, who has a broken right foot. Randolph returned to practice this week, but Love is expected to be out several more weeks.

Cameron Bennerman scored 20 points to lead the Wolfpack, but Hodge went just 3-for-10 from the floor.

No. 14 Washington '77, Oregon '56: At Seattle, Tre Simmons and Bobby Jones each scored 15 points, and Nate Robinson and Jamaal Williams added 14 apiece for the Huskies.

Simmons also had a career-high 12 rebounds to help Washington (14-2, 4-1 Pac-10) win its 16th straight home game. Bryce Tatum had 16 points for Oregon (10-3, 2-2).

No. 16 Gonzaga '76, Loyola Marymount '65: At Spokane, Wash., J.P. Bastie scored 17 points in his first start, and Ronny Tursud added 16 on his 22nd trip to lead the Bulldogs.

Gonzaga (12-3, 2-1 West Coast Conference) was coming off a loss to Saint Mary's on Saturday that ended its conference winning streak at 17. Matthew Knight had 20 points for Loyola Marymount (9-7, 1-2).

No. 17 Arizona '77, Southern California '68: At Tucson, Ariz., Chris Rodgers scored a career-high 22 points, seven during the Wildcats' decisive second-half surge.

Salim Stoudamire added 21 points for the Wildcats (13-3, 3-1 Pac-10). Nick Young led USC (6-7, 7-9) with 18 points.

Memphis '78, No. 22 Marquette '68: At Memphis, Tenn., Rodney Carney scored 29 points, and freshman guard Darius Washington had 20 points and five assists for Memphis (9-7, 2-0 Conference USA).

Dameon Mason led Marquette (13-2, 1-1) with 20 points.

UConn's Calhoun, Auriemma agree to multiyear extensions

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — National championship coaches Jim Calhoun and Geno Auriemma agreed to contract extensions at Connecticut on Friday.

Calhoun, who led the men to a second NCAA title last year, accepted a six-year deal worth \$9.1 million. In his 19th year at UConn, Calhoun ranks eighth in career wins among all active NCAA coaches (689).

Auriemma, in his 20th year

with the women's program, signed on for five more years worth \$4.85 million. He's led the Huskies to five NCAA titles since 1995, including the past three.

Calhoun has amassed 441 wins at UConn, and his teams are 32-9 in the NCAA tournament.

Auriemma's program is the only one to reach five consecutive Final Fours (2000-04). The Huskies won a Division I record by winning 70 straight games from 2001-2003. He has 541 wins — all at Connecticut.

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Leinart staying at USC for his senior season

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart will be back for his senior season at Southern California and try to lead the Trojans to a third straight national championship.

The USC quarterback announced his decision Friday, opting to complete his eligibility rather than enter the NFL Draft, where he figured to be one of the top selections and become an instant millionaire.

"I realized the opportunity right now to support my family by going to the NFL early, but to me I think college football and this whole atmosphere here and being with my fans and my teammates ... is ultimately more satisfying and will make me happier than any amount of money could make someone happy," he said.

There was a roar of approval from a crowd of about 500 students and fans jammed into the foyer at Heritage Hall to hear Leinart's decision.

"OK, so I'm smiling," a beaming coach Pete Carroll said after Leinart's announcement.

Leinart has made clear for months his desire to stay in school.

He said last August he would definitely return because he

loved playing for the Trojans, he needed to get stronger physically and make other improvements.

More recently, he said he was leaning toward returning, but would investigate his options.

In the end, Leinart decided the risk of serious injury or a sub-par performance next season was less important than following his heart and enjoying college for another year.

Leinart consulted coaches, friends, teammates, NFL quarterbacks Carson Palmer and Ben Roethlisberger and his parents. The 21-year-old said he didn't come to a final decision until Friday.

A 6-foot-5, 225-pound left-hander, Leinart was a third-year sophomore who hadn't thrown a pass for the Trojans when he succeeded Palmer, another Heisman Trophy winner, as USC's starting quarterback 16½ months ago.

The Trojans have a 25-1 record with Leinart at the controls — including 13-0 this season. He capped the year by passing for 332 yards and an Orange Bowl-record five touchdowns in USC's resounding 55-19 victory over Oklahoma on Jan. 4.

Leinart's 6,878 career passing yards rank fourth on the school's career list, and his 71 touchdown passes rank second — one behind Palmer.



AP

Matt Leinart said, "I think college football and this whole atmosphere here ... is ultimately more satisfying and will make me happier than any amount of money could."

Two other USC juniors, line-backer Lofa Tatupu and punter Tom Malone, also announced decisions about next season. Tatupu said he is making himself eligible for the NFL Draft, while Malone said he will return to USC.

By staying in school, Leinart could become the second player to win the Heisman trophy. Ohio State running back Archie Griffin accomplished the feat in 1974-75.

Leinart passed for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns with nine interceptions in his first season as the starter, no doubt helped by the presence of talented and experienced wide receivers Mike Williams and Keari Colbert.

As a fourth-year junior this season, throwing to a corps of young, inexperienced wideouts, Leinart passed for 3,322 yards and 33 TDs with six interceptions.

Wie shoots 75 in Sony

DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — First came a stinger tee shot with her driver — a low, penetrating flight into 25 mph gusts that went 275 yards.

For her next trick, Michelle Wie hit a knockdown 6-iron that stopped 6 feet away for a birdie.

It was extraordinary stuff for anyone on the PGA Tour, let alone a 15-year-old girl.

"I didn't feel like I was playing with a 15-year-old girl," said Matt Davidson, who shot 77 in his PGA Tour debut while playing before a large gallery hanging on every shot Wie hit.

"She has all the tools to be out here," he said.

But by the end of the first round Thursday, Wie was happy just to save par. Stacked up against the men in the Sony Open, her 5-over 75 was less than ordinary.

Wie battled blustery conditions that led to the second-highest scoring at Waialae Country Club since it changed to a par 70 six years ago. She had a tougher time deciding how to gauge her performance.

She tied nine other men (Fred Funk, Paul Casey) and beat 15 others in the 144-player field. But she also was nine shots behind the leaders — Stewart Cink, Brett Quigley, Tom Byrum and Hank Kuehne — who each shot 66.

And she faced a tough task Friday trying to become the first female to make the cut on the PGA Tour since Babe Zaharias in the 1945 Tucson Open.

"It could have gone both ways," Wie said. "If my putting just went in, I think I would have shot an awesome round. But it could have gone a lot worse. I could have easily made five or six more bogeys. But I hung in there."

Her only consolation? "At least I'm not in last place," she said.

Wie last year opened with a 72 and followed that with a 68 — the lowest score by a female competing on a men's tour — to miss the cut by one shot.

Her 75 on Thursday put her in a tie for 120th (she was tied for 105th last year), and she was four shots below the projected cut line. Wie stayed on the practice range for nearly three hours after the round, knowing it might take her best to stick around on the weekend.

"If I end up at like 1 over par, maybe I'll make it," she said.

Wie had said she would need some luck on her side, and she didn't have much. Not only did several putts burn the edge of the cup, her morning start turned out to be the bad end of the draw.

The wind subsided slightly in the afternoon, and the scoring stabilized.

Still, the average score of 71.813 was more than 1½ strokes higher than last year.

Only 29 players broke par, the fewest in seven years at Waialae.

Among them was Vijay Singh, the No. 1 player in the world, who had only three sub-par holes — one of them an eagle — and dropped back to 69 with a sloppy bogey on the par-5 18th.



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STARS AND STRIPES
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Zama still heading in right direction

Trojans win second regular-season dual meet for first time since '89-90

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Gradually, the Zama American Trojans wrestling team continues its journey from dormat to contender.

On Wednesday, defending Far East heavyweight champion David Burnett and the Trojans edged Yokota 28-26. The team also logged a dual-meet victory in December over Christian Academy in Japan — the first time since 1989-90 that Zama has won two regular-season dual meets in one season.

"I feel great about this team," said coach Ian Harlow of his senior-laden squad. "It's exciting. I think they have a good chance, individually and as a team, at Far East" next month, also at Yokota.

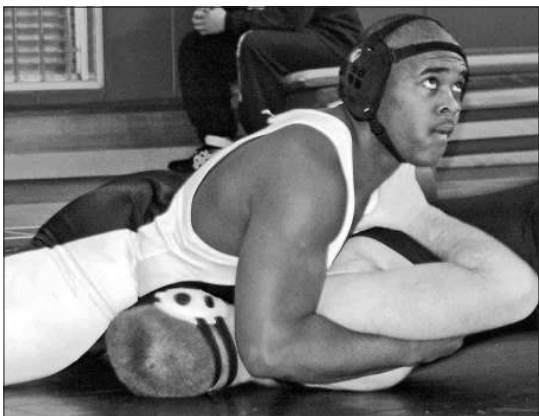
Burnett capped the dual meet by pinning Yokota freshman Randall Pelletier in 1 minute, 56 seconds, giving Zama its second regular-season dual-meet victory over Yokota.

The previous week, Zama finished 13 points behind Nile C. Kinnick in the E.J. King Invitational at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan — the closest the Trojans have come to winning a tournament in 15 seasons.

Veteran Nick Villasana (148 pounds) also scored a pin and senior Anthony Garcia (129) earned a technical fall.

"Their performance has been what I expected up to this point," Harlow said.

"They've picked up their style, they have their goals set, but we're trying to move those goals. I'm proud of the way they're wrestling and the way



Senior David Burnett has helped lead the Zama American Trojans to two dual-meet victories this season, their most since 1989-90. Burnett is the defending Far East Tournament heavyweight gold medalist.

they're leading this team."

Newcomer who've impressed include senior Chris Johnson. "I knew right off the bat he was going to be a good wrestler," Harlow said.

Good athlete, strong, well-built, hard worker, never gets down on himself when he loses but turns right around and

gets back to it."

Other coaches also have noticed Zama's strides.

"Coach Harlow has done so much with his team and really turned Zama wrestling into a great program," Yokota assistant coach Brian Kitts said.

Zama's improvement also raises the question of how far the

team can go. Harlow and the Trojans have four more regular-season dual meets, three more invitational tournaments and the Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools championship on Feb. 12, leading into Far East.

"We're hoping they peak at the right moment, which is Far East," Kitts said.

Local scoreboard

High school

Japan boys basketball	
Japan Basketball League	
Nile C. Kinnick	W 1 Pct. GB
Robert D. Perry	0 1 1200 -
E.J. King	2 1 667 1/2
Zama American	4 2 667 1
Matthew C. Harlow	5 3 625 3
Matthew C. Harlow	7 2 500 5 1/2

Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools

W 1 Pct. GB	
St. Mary's International	6 1 1000 -
Nile C. Kinnick	5 1 1000 -
Yokota American	5 2 714 1/2
St. Mary's International	4 2 667 1
Yokohama International	1 4 200 4 1/2
St. Mary's International	2 1 667 1
Christian Academy in Japan	2 0 200 4
American School in Japan	2 0 200 4

Friday's summary

Nile C. Kinnick vs. St. Mary's Int'l 4A	
At Tokyo	
Kinnick	7 10 20 246
St. Mary's	5 16 15 17-43

Leading scorers: Kinnick, Travis Ekmark 11; (11 last three minutes), Leonard Lyne 11; David McDermott 15, Paul Ergas 11; St. Mary's, Guilfoyle 18 (five three-point goals), Jun Dambora 12. Leading rebounders: Kinnick, Paul Ergas 11, Leonard Lyne 7, Travis Ekmark 5, ASDS-Kinnick, David McDermott 5, St. Mary's, Guilfoyle 5. Blocked shots: Kinnick, Travis Ekmark 3.

Japan girls basketball

Japan Basketball League	
W 1 Pct. GB	
Yokota	5 1 1000 -
Robert D. Edgren	2 1 1000 -
Nile C. Kinnick	4 2 667 1/2
E.J. King	4 2 667 1
Zama American	1 1 250 2 1/2
Matthew C. Perry	0 0 1000 3 1/2

Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools

W 1 Pct. GB	
Yokota	6 1 1000 -
Nile C. Kinnick	6 1 1000 -
American School in Japan	2 1 667 2 1/2
Int'l School of Sacred Heart	3 4 429 3 1/2
Seisen International	3 4 429 3 1/2
St. Mary's International	1 4 250 4 1/2
Christian Academy in Japan	1 4 200 4 1/2
Yokohama International	0 0 1000 7

Japan wrestling

Wednesday's results	
St. Mary's Int'l 4A	
Christianity vs. Japan 5	
At Tokyo	

101 pounds-Miley Guilfoyle, St. Mary's, by walkover.

135-Daigo Ichikawa, St. Mary's, by walkover.

113-Yoshimoto CAI, pinned Thomas Dierker, first singles, 4-1, decided Alois Parsch, score unavailable.

129-Dor Chow, St. Mary's, pinned Chong Shun, 1-0, 1-0.

139-Shun Shigeru, St. Mary's, by walkover.

141-Mat Strick, St. Mary's, superior decision, 1-0, 1-0.

148-J.M. Kwak, St. Mary's, pinned Yoshida Atsuna, time unavailable.

156-Sonny Lieber, St. Mary's, pinned Jang Joon, 1-0, 1-0.

166-Pavel Kachalov, St. Mary's, superior decision, 1-0, 1-0.

180-Jason Dierker, St. Mary's, by walkover.

215-Cris Sullivan, St. Mary's, by walkover.

Heavyweight Sam Shober, St. Mary's, by walkover.

Kinnick boys defeat St. Mary's, stay unbeaten

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Nile C. Kinnick's boys remained perfect, but not without experiencing a scare at St. Mary's.

"We were kind of expecting that," coach Nathan Brewster said, as the Red Devils (12-0) rallied from a four-point halftime deficit to pull away in the fourth quarter for a 66-53 victory over the Titans.

(St. Mary's coach) Fred (Sava) always gives us a run for our money."

Brewster instructed his team during a timeout to focus on defense and to keep the Titans off the boards.

"The guys never stopped fighting and they wanted to win," Brewster said, adding that junior Travis Ekmark, who had 19 points, "just took over offensively and the defense shut them down the last three minutes."

Davis returns from N.C., bolsters Osan girls' lineup

SONGNAM, South Korea — Wearing her old jersey, No. 24, Mina Davis returned to the Osan American Cougars girls basketball

Prep roundup

ball team lineup Wednesday and scored 14 points to help Osan down Seoul International 71-20.

It was the first game this year for Davis in a Cougars uniform. An All-Far East player last year as a junior, she spent the first semester this year in North Carolina, where she averaged 15 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Overhills High Jaguars.

Her father, retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Elmie Davis, now is working at Camp Humphreys. They returned to South Korea on Jan. 7.

"She's a nice addition" to the team, coach Bruce Barker said, adding that fellow senior point guard Sharon Kroening "feels more comfortable with her in the lineup."

The Cougars improved to 5-2, but had tests loom: Osan visits Seoul American on Saturday, then hosts Taegu American on Jan. 22, the Warriors routed the Cougars 51-32 on Jan. 7.

"When it comes to playing

Seoul American, and Taegu the next time around, we'll see how they do," Barker said.

Osan boys average OT loss to Seoul Foreign

SEOUL — Put Osan American and Seoul Foreign on the court for a boys basketball game and you can almost bet the house it'll be a close contest.

Friday's Korea-American Inter-scholastic Activities Conference battle was no different. Unlike Seoul Foreign's 64-63 overtime victory on Dec. 15, the Cougars got their way this time, edging the Crusaders 49-47 and ruining their homecoming.

"Absolutely amazing," said Seoul Foreign coach J.P. Rader of what's becoming the league's best rivalry. "It's been fun. It's been remarkable. And each game has been hard-fought."

The teams have met six times during the past three regular seasons, with each winning three times. Three of those six games went to overtime and two were won on buzzer-beating shots.

"Tonight could have easily gone to overtime," Rader said

after the Crusaders lost for the first time in seven games this season. Osan improved to 5-3 in league and 5-6 overall.

What has made this such a close rivalry?

"We're well-matched," said Rader, who has coached Seoul Foreign since 1989-90 and played for the Crusaders in the late 1970s.

On Friday, the Cougars burst out to a 12-2 first-quarter edge, led by 15 at halftime and entered the final quarter with a 35-23 lead before the Crusaders scored 24 points in the last eight minutes.

Seoul Foreign chopped the lead in half the first two minutes of the period, then got within two points twice, with 3:30 left and with 16 seconds left.

The Crusaders had two chances to tie the game but missed both ends of two-shot free-throw situations. With 6:45 seconds left, Osan missed a chance to seal it by missing a two-point shot.

The Crusaders moved upcourt but Chris Chang's three-point try came after the buzzer.

Chris Durham and Cory Black each paced Osan with 14 points, while Seoul Foreign's Andrew Jasper led all scorers with 21.

Caution costs Miller part of Cup lead

By ERICA BULMAN

The Associated Press

WENGEN, Switzerland — Skiing with uncharacteristic caution in the final leg of Friday's super-combined race, Bode Miller ended up straddling a gate, a mistake that allowed main rival Bjorn Dæhlie to cut into his lead in the overall standings.

"I took no risk," Miller said. "I was skiing incredibly slow. I was just trying to make it through. It's a lesson I learned as a kid. You have to be happy with the way you are skiing, not just want to make it to the finish. You don't ski your best that way. That's when you mess up."

Raich posted the fastest time in the slalom leg, then increased his lead in the downhill run to win in 2 minutes, 28.37 seconds. Norway's Lasse Kjus was next, 0.32 seconds behind. Switzerland's Didier Defago tied third way.

Miller didn't earn any points, leaving him with 988 in the overall standings, 198 ahead of Raich.

MLB looks to weed out steroid abusers

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now comes the real test for baseball: Will any player get suspended this year for using steroids? With some of its biggest stars under suspicion and lawmakers demanding action, Major League Baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program that will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

The agreement was hailed by baseball management and its union Thursday as a huge step forward. But it was criticized by some as not going far enough because the penalties are less harsh than those in Olympic sports and amphetamines were not banned.

"I've been saying for some time that my goal for this industry is zero tolerance regarding steroids," Commissioner Bud Selig said.

A first positive test would result in a penalty of 10 days, a second positive test in a 30-day penalty, a third positive in a 60-day penalty, and a fourth positive test in a one-year ban—all without pay. A player who tests positive a fifth time would be subject to discipline determined by the commissioner.

"It's more for our protection than anything else," Boston pitcher Tim Lincecum said.

Under the previous agreement, a first positive test resulted only in treatment, and a second positive test was subject to a 15-day suspension. Only with a fifth positive test would a player subject to a one-year ban.

"It appears to be a significant breakthrough," Sen. John McCain said in Washington.

No player was suspended for steroid use in 2004, the first season of testing with penalties.

"We're acting today to help restore the confidence of our fans," Selig said.

Since the old agreement was reached in 2002, baseball has come under increased scrutiny about steroids.

Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield testified before a federal grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative known as BALCO. President Bush mentioned the steroid problem in last year's State of the Union address.

"I will be surprised if over time this doesn't take care of the problem virtually completely," union head Donald Fehr said, speaking by telephone from Los Angeles.

The old deal wasn't good to expire until December 2006, but the union took the rare step of renegotiating a major section of its labor contract. The new rules run until December 2008.

"I think it's pretty historic that we went into a bargaining agreement and changed something," Minnesota pitcher Kyle Lohse said. "Hopefully, that shows everybody how serious we are about getting steroids out of the game."

McCain, who had threatened baseball with legislation, said that is no longer necessary, though he would have preferred a 10- to 15-game suspension for a first offense and a permanent ban for multiple positive tests.

"I would have liked to see amphetamines added to this list," McCain said.

World Anti-Doping Agency chairman Dick Pound, a member of the International Olympic Committee since 1978, said the new rules didn't go far enough.

"Basically, instead of having to hold up the liquor store five times before you get a one-year suspension, you only have to hold it up four times," he said. "But at least there's some penalty incurred the first time that you're tested, and that's a step forward."

In addition to the mandatory test each season, players will be randomly selected for additional tests, with no limit on the number, and for the first time will be subject to random tests during the offseason. In addition, diuretics and many steroid precursors were added to the banned list.

WADA's Dr. Gary Wadler criti-

Baseball pumps up the penalties

Major League Baseball announced a stricter steroid-testing program Thursday to deal with the health and integrity issues. The agreement runs until December 2008.

Penalties for positive tests for steroid use in various sports

	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
Old	10 days	15 days	30 days	60 days	1 year
New	10 days	30 days	60 days	1 year	League decision
Other sports					
15 games	30 games	60 games	1 year	Lifetime	
4 games	6 games	1 year	1 year	1 year	
5 games	10 games	25 games	25 games	25 games	
2 years	Lifetime				

AP

cized the failure to address amphetamines, which many in baseball consider to be a far greater problem than steroids.

The issue of amphetamines came up during the talks, said Rob Manfred, management's chief labor negotiator.

"Stimulants are a complicated area," Manfred said. "Are they performance enhancing? How should they be regulated? That's something that we've put to the health policy advisory committee to look at because we weren't prepared to deal with it."

Human growth hormone was added to a longer list of banned substances, but it will be found only when science determines a way to detect it in urine samples. Currently, it can be found only in blood tests, which will not be conducted in baseball.

The agreement was approved by owners Thursday but still must be voted on by players.

Associated Press Writers Bob Baun in Phoenix, Dave Campbell in Minneapolis, Frederic J. Frommer in Washington, Jimmy Golden in Boston and Steve Wintstein in Seattle contributed to this report.

Exposed

The truth behind Hollywood legends.

PARADE Magazine — the most widely read magazine in America — has teamed up with Stars and Stripes to provide you with the hottest news from Hollywood every Sunday, in Walter Scott's Personality PARADE®.

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SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's Personality PARADE®

One of the most famous faces in Hollywood, the actor's life has been a roller coaster of success and scandal. In this exclusive interview, he opens up about his career, his personal life, and the challenges he's faced along the way.

Q: How did you get into acting?
A: I started acting in high school, and it was a natural progression from there. I loved being on camera and the creative process.

Q: What's your favorite role?
A: I'd have to say my role in [Movie Title]. It was a challenge, but it allowed me to explore a different side of myself.

Q: How do you handle the pressure of being a public figure?
A: I try to stay grounded. I have a lot of friends and family who support me, and I know that's what keeps me going.

Q: What's your opinion on the current state of Hollywood?
A: I think it's a mix of good and bad. There's a lot of talented people working hard, but there's also a lot of competition and pressure to succeed.

Q: What's your advice for aspiring actors?
A: Stay persistent. It's a long journey, but if you love it, you'll find a way to make it work.

Q: What's your favorite movie of all time?
A: I love [Movie Title]. It's a classic, and it's a great example of how to tell a story.

Q: What's your favorite book?
A: I've read a lot of books, but I really enjoyed [Book Title]. It was a great read.

Q: What's your favorite food?
A: I love Italian food. It's delicious, and it's a great way to relax after a long day.

Q: What's your favorite hobby?
A: I like to travel. It's a great way to see the world and meet new people.

Q: What's your favorite TV show?
A: I love [TV Show]. It's a great show, and it's a great way to spend my free time.

Q: What's your favorite music?
A: I love all kinds of music. I'm a big fan of [Artist Name].

Q: What's your favorite sport?
A: I love basketball. It's a great sport, and it's a great way to stay in shape.

Q: What's your favorite color?
A: I love blue. It's a great color, and it's a great way to express myself.

Q: What's your favorite animal?
A: I love dogs. They're great companions, and they're a great way to stay happy.

Q: What's your favorite drink?
A: I love coffee. It's a great way to start my day, and it's a great way to stay alert.

Q: What's your favorite time of day?
A: I love the morning. It's a great time to wake up, and it's a great time to start my day.

Q: What's your favorite season?
A: I love summer. It's a great time to relax, and it's a great time to enjoy the outdoors.

Q: What's your favorite city?
A: I love Los Angeles. It's a great city, and it's a great place to live.

Q: What's your favorite movie star?
A: I love [Movie Star]. They're a great actor, and they're a great person.

Q: What's your favorite TV star?
A: I love [TV Star]. They're a great actor, and they're a great person.

Q: What's your favorite book series?
A: I love [Book Series]. It's a great series, and it's a great way to spend my free time.

Q: What's your favorite movie series?
A: I love [Movie Series]. It's a great series, and it's a great way to spend my free time.

Q: What's your favorite TV series?
A: I love [TV Series]. It's a great series, and it's a great way to spend my free time.

Q: What's your favorite music artist?
A: I love [Music Artist]. They're a great artist, and they're a great person.

Q: What's your favorite sport team?
A: I love [Sport Team]. They're a great team, and they're a great way to stay happy.

Q: What's your favorite color combination?
A: I love blue and white. It's a great combination, and it's a great way to express myself.

Q: What's your favorite food combination?
A: I love pizza and pasta. It's a great combination, and it's a great way to stay happy.

Q: What's your favorite drink combination?
A: I love coffee and tea. It's a great combination, and it's a great way to stay alert.

Q: What's your favorite time of day combination?
A: I love morning and night. It's a great combination, and it's a great way to start my day.

Q: What's your favorite season combination?
A: I love summer and winter. It's a great combination, and it's a great way to enjoy the outdoors.

Q: What's your favorite city combination?
A: I love Los Angeles and New York. It's a great combination, and it's a great place to live.

Q: What's your favorite movie star combination?
A: I love [Movie Star] and [Movie Star]. They're a great combination, and they're a great person.

Q: What's your favorite TV star combination?
A: I love [TV Star] and [TV Star]. They're a great combination, and they're a great person.

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Moss shows no remorse after being fined \$1,000

BY MARC NARDUCCI
The Philadelphia Inquirer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Randy Moss was fined \$10,000 by the NFL for unsportsmanlike conduct on Thursday for pretending to moon Green Bay Packers fans this week during Minnesota's NFC wild-card victory. Moss will be in Philadelphia on Sunday for an NFC divisional playoff game against the Eagles.

Moss' one-sentence response to the league-imposed penalty may land him in even more hot water. "It's only 10 grand — what's 10 grand to me?" said Moss, who signed an eight-year, \$75 million contract in 2001. Moss added that next time, he might do something more vulgar with regards to his anatomy.

Moss, 27, commented after walking through a group of reporters standing in zero-degree temperatures outside the team's practice facility. The all-pro receiver initially said nothing while walking toward his car but spoke after continued prodding.

The fine was issued by the NFL's director of game operations, Peter Haddary.

Vikings officials were unavailable for comment, either on the fine or Moss' reaction to it. Vikings head coach Mike Tice declined comment while walking call-in show on Thursday night.

Joe Browne, the NFL's executive vice president of communications, and Greg Aiello, vice president-public relations, were unavailable for comment. Eagles

spokesman Derek Boyko said the team declined comment.

Moss' agent, Dante DiTrapano, told The Associated Press he planned to appeal the fine. "If you can't have freedom of expression on the football field, come on," DiTrapano said.

Moss' end-zone celebration, which came in Minnesota's 31-17 victory over the Packers in Green Bay, has created a national furor all week.

The flamboyant receiver, who had two touchdown catches in the game, drew the ire of a Fox Broadcasting crew televising the game,

**"It's only 10 grand
— what's 10
grand to me?"**

Randy Moss
Vikings wide receiver

Green Bay fans, and football fans around the country when he pretended to moon the crowd after his second TD.

Moss, his back toward the crowd, bent over and pretended to pull his pants down. He also briefly mimed the goalpost with his celebration before being joined in his obscenity by laughing teammates.

Whether Moss encounters further fines for his one-sentence remark Thursday remains to be seen.

"Your actions were based on poor judgment, did not reflect well on you or the Vikings and were insulting to many," Haddary said.

hazy wrote in a letter to Moss.

"They have resulted in widespread racism and needless detracted from Minnesota's dramatic playoff victory. Fans should look to you and your teammates to see how to compete and win in football."

"But when you lose your focus on playing and engage in side-shows as you did on Sunday, you forfeit much of this."

Controversy seems to follow Moss. On Jan. 2, during Minnesota's 21-18 loss to the Washington Redskins, Moss walked off the field with two seconds to play. As the Vikings attempted an inside kick, Moss casually walked off the field. In the code of NFL honor, that is tantamount to quitting.

In the days leading up to the Green Bay game, teammates told Moss about their displeasure with the incident.

He has been fined by the NFL for incidents ranging from spitting an official with a water bottle, which cost him \$25,000, to \$15,000 for verbally abusing corporate sponsors on an airplane. Moss was fined \$5,000 in September for his role in a scuffle with the Chicago Bears.

Moss, who has been hampered recently by a lingering ankle injury, sat out practice Wednesday but was back on Thursday. "Randy was able to take all the plays," Tice said Thursday before Moss' fine was announced. "He opened it up for other players."

"That's the biggest thing that Randy brings besides the big-play ability."

Thompson hired as Packers GM

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Ted Thompson was hired Friday to take over coach Mike Sherman's general manager duties with the Green Bay Packers.

Thompson leaves his job as Seattle's vice president of football operations.

Packers President Bob Harlan said in a statement that Thompson's hiring "will reduce Mike's workload and enable him to devote more time to coaching."

"In today's salary cap world of professional football where rosters are overhauled every offseason, both the job of a general manager and the job of a head coach are extremely demanding and require an inordinate amount of time and effort," Harlan said.

It's not clear, however, if the team will pursue a contract extension with Sherman, who has a year left on his deal, which was to pay him about \$3 million for both roles. His new titles are head coach and executive vice president. The Packers scheduled a news conference for Friday.

Sherman took on the general manager's role in 2001 after Ron



Wolf retired. Thompson was the pro personnel director and director of player personnel under Wolf from 1992-99 in Green Bay, working with all three of the Packers' top personnel men: Reggie McKenzie, John Dorsey and John Schneider.

Thompson joined Mike Holmgren in Seattle after the 1999 season and has run the draft and advised him on personnel decisions.

Sherman is 53-27 in the regular season since becoming Packers coach in 2000, and the Packers and Philadelphia Eagles are the only NFL teams to reach the playoffs in each of the past four years. But Sherman is 2-4 in the playoffs.

Seahawks fire team president

SEATTLE — Bob Whittsett was fired Friday by the Seahawks as president of football operations.

He decided to take a change of direction and bring in somebody with a deep background in football to run the football side of the

organization," Seahawks owner Paul Allen said. "I didn't take it lightly at all, but felt it's what is needed for the franchise."

Whittsett served as president of the Seahawks for eight years and helped negotiate the purchase and development of Qwest Field and the hiring of Mike Holmgren as head coach.

NFL Gillette Stadium fine in good shape

FOXBORO, Mass. — National Football League officials said the field at Gillette Stadium is in good condition, despite the New England Patriots' decision not to come to during recent storms.

The NFL sent a representative to check the field on Thursday amid concerns that it was becoming a quagmire in advance of Sunday's playoff game with the Indianapolis Colts.

"Our representative said there was no issue with the field," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told The Boston Globe. "He reported that the field was dry, the footing is excellent."

The Patriots didn't cover the field Wednesday, but Aiello said that's because the grounds crew was painting it.

Playoffs: NFL serves up some tasty matchups

PLAYOFFS, FROM BACK PAGE

"I'm in my seventh year and I'm known as kind of an old man as far as quarterbacks go in the NFL."

All four quarterbacks in the rematch of regular-season games, and all are at the same venue as the first contests.

**AFC
Indianapolis (13-4)
at New England (14-2)**

Manning threw 32 of his 49 TD passes indoors — 26 at home in the RCA Dome and six at Detroit's Ford Field. The temperature in Foxboro on Sunday is likely to be in the 20s.

"People make a big deal of that," he says. "I think it just depends on who plays the best, whether you're at home or away in a dome or in weather or whatnot."

"Whatnot" in this case might be the Patriots' crowd and New England's 19-game winning streak in Foxboro. The Pats also are one of only three teams to finish 14-2 for two straight seasons.

The crowd? Manning calls more plays at the line of scrimmage than any quarterback in the NFL.

"It's always a huge advantage for us playing at home," Brady says. "I know going into the road it's real tough when it's loud. From an opposing team's view, it's awfully tough when the other crowd is very loud — and our fans are loud."

Previous meeting: Patriots 27-24, Sept. 9.

**New York Jets (11-6)
at Pittsburgh (15-1)**

Like the Falcons, the Steelers seem content to be ignored. And Roethlisberger, 13-0 as a starting quarterback in the NFL, seems content to let Manning, Brady, Daunte Culpepper, Donovan McNabb and the other high-profile quarterbacks take the spotlight.

"There's a little bit of pressure out there, obviously, because you lose, you go home," he said after some relaxed horsplay in the locker room this week. "But I don't want to go out there and have too much pressure and stress on me."

The Jets' Chad Pennington, whose sore shoulder seemed healed in last week's overtime win in San Diego, had a virus infection this week. Coach Herman Edwards, who had a touch of the same, looked at that as a potential positive.

Generally when guys get sick they don't "stupid game" it away, they say. "I thought one time Michael Jordan got sick and he had, what, 100 points or something like that? Maybe that's a good sign when guys get sick."

Previous meeting: Steelers 17-6, Dec. 12.

**NFC
St. Louis (9-8)
at Atlanta (11-5)**

The Rams were the first 8-8 team to advance in the playoffs, and the Vikings became the second. On the next day, demonstrating how well the NFC is this season.

The Falcons also are a bit of a question mark, although with Michael Vick back from injury



In the past three games, St. Louis Rams QB Matt Bulger has completed 68 percent of his passes for 889 yards, six touchdowns and three interceptions.

and Mora as the coach, they have reversed last season's record. They also had wins over two AFC playoff teams, San Diego and Denver, and Vick on a fast track makes them extremely dangerous on anyone on the field.

The Rams, of course, love an artificial indoor surface, although they would prefer to be in their own dome.

They also have won three straight games and believe they are returning to the elite status they enjoyed for most of the past five years. Coach Mike Martz now says Marc Bulger might be better than Kurt Warner was from 1999-01, when he won two MVP awards.

The defense is coming on, helped by the emergence of tackle Jimmy Kennedy, who played little as a first-round draft choice last season, then missed seven games with a broken foot this season.

"Jimmy has just amazed me," Martz says. "What he did quietly while he was away is pretty remarkable."

Previous meeting: Falcons 34-17, Sept. 19.

**Minnesota (9-8)
at Philadelphia (13-3)**

The Eagles are also a bit out of the spotlight, in part because they tanked their last two games after clinching home-field advantage, and in part because they were off last week while Moss shared top billing with Manning and the Colts.

Philadelphia also has been downgraded because Terrell Owens is out with a leg injury and won't be back unless the Eagles make the Super Bowl — and maybe not even then.

But they do have Brian Westbrook, the other playmaker, whose absence from the playoffs last season was probably why they lost their third straight NFC title game.

Moss, whose two touchdown catches in Green Bay were overshadowed by his antics, was limping this week on a sprained ankle after being hobbled for much of the season by hamstring problems. But he will play.

Even Minnesota's owner Rod McCombs got into the act by demanding that Fox Sports remove play-by-play announcer Joe Buck from the telecast for denouncing Moss' antics.

Fox declined. Previous meeting: Eagles 27-16, Sept. 20.

Instant offense

Despite their team-first mantra, the Falcons' fortunes rest largely on Vick's arms and legs

BY PAUL NEWBERY
The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Michael Vick and those around him keep repeating a familiar mantra: The Atlanta Falcons are a team.

Seriously. They're not kidding.

"Who's the best player on our team?" coach Jim Mora said. "I think if you took a poll of the nation, 100 percent of the people would say Mike Vick. Well, I'll tell you how our locker room feels: The best player on our team is our team."

Then again, the Falcons have perhaps the best player in the NFL who's capable of winning a game all by himself.

Not a bad weapon to have in the playoffs.

The Falcons met their first home playoff game since 1998 on Saturday against the St. Louis Rams. Rest assured, everyone at the Georgia Dome — both the field and in the stands — will have an eye on No. 7.

"Mike is going to make plays," teammate DeAngelo Hall said. "Mike is going to be Mike, just like Michael Jordan was always going to be Michael Jordan. Those kind of guys definitely make plays."

Despite finishing with the NFL's second-best record, the Falcons are generally considered a notch below top seed Philadelphia, which AFC powers New England, Pittsburgh and Indianapolis.

But no one has a player like Vick, who is capable of putting everyone else in slow motion on any given play.

Vick would have had the first quarterback to reach 1,000 yards rushing, but he

wasn't needed in the final two games. With playoff positioning all locked up, Vick sat out one game and played only 1½ quarters in the other. Even so, he finished with a staggering 902 yards on the ground, averaging 7½ yards per run.

If anyone is capable of upsetting the playoff balance, it's Vick.

"I do have the ability to make plays when we need them, with my feet, and that's just our advantage," he said. "At the same time, I've got to pick and choose my spots when I take off and run, make sure I give the guys downfield an opportunity to make plays in this game, too."

Not even Vick is capable of beating 11 guys all by himself.

Two years ago, after leading Atlanta to a playoff win at Green Bay's Lambeau Field, he wasn't much of a factor in a second-round loss to Philadelphia. The Falcons failed to score a touchdown as the Eagles held Vick to 30 yards rushing.

"People say I'm the X-factor and I'm the key to winning," he said. "I think the key to winning is our team coming to play as a team and playing together. That's what is going to win the football game for us, I promise you."

Already steady on defense, the Rams don't plan on letting Vick out of their sight. Stopping him could be another matter.

In Week 2, Vick had one of his best games of the season, rushing for 109 yards, completing 14 of 19 passes for 179 yards and leading the Falcons to a 34-17 victory over St. Louis.

"He's probably the best all-around player in the league," Rams coach Mike Martz

ry over Seattle was a intense playoff struggle.

"These guys are energized," coach Mike Martz said. "It's as if the season has just begun in their minds."

The Rams' string of three consecutive victories matches their longest winning streak of the season and is the second-longest for any of the eight remaining playoff teams.

"For us right now, you just wouldn't want to have a (first-round) bye," Martz said. In years past, with the experience that we had, we were at a high level going into the playoffs, and you kind of wanted to rest your guys a little bit. That's not the case now."

After winning just two road contests during the regular season, the Rams are faced with the challenge of winning their second straight road playoff game.

Road teams won three of four contests over the just-completed wild-card weekend, but recent history shows that knocking off teams coming off a first-round bye is nearly impossible in the NFL.

Since the current 12-team playoff format began in 1990, NFL



Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick (7), trying to elude Carolina linebacker Brandon Short in a game last October, rushed for 902 yards this season and averaged 7½ yards per carry.

said Wednesday. "Obviously, he's the best athlete. You've got to account for him first and foremost."

Vick gives the Falcons an extra runner in the backfield, teaming with Warrick Dunn (1,066 yards, nine touchdowns) and T.J. Duckett (509 yards, eight TDs) to form the league's most prolific rushing attack.

"Defending them is like defending the 100," Martz said. "That's something the NFL has not seen before. Everyone is scrambling around, trying to find a way to defend it or at least slow it down. I don't know if there's a way to do it."

While Mora has harped on the team theme all season, he's not naive. The rookie coach knows as well as anyone that he has a unique player, one who could make the difference between winning in the playoffs or calling it a season.

"He draws attention," Mora said. "Every single time he takes a snap, he is a threat to beat you in a multitude of ways. He can throw the ball efficiently from the pocket, he can get out of the pocket and throw it, he can run it, he can stay alive for about three hours and throw it down the field, he goes to hand it off and he's a threat coming out on a bootleg the other way. So, he affects the game every time he touches it."

Every once in a while, someone inside the locker room will slip up and actually say what everyone on the outside is thinking.

Just listen to Hall, a cornerback, as he assessed the matchup on the offensive side.

"We have one exciting player. They have an exciting offense," he said. "May be the best man win."

When it comes to the Falcons, one man might be enough.

Underdog Rams feeling energized

BY JIM THOMAS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — They are loose, refreshed and re-energized. Three weeks ago, when they were 6-8, most observers wouldn't have given a pick nicker for the Rams' chances of being in the NFL's version of the Elite Eight.

But here they are, like the uninvited guest who refuses to leave the party, just two steps removed from the Super Bowl. As they say in Las Vegas, the Rams are playing with house money now.

We had those two must-win situations at the end of the regular season," defensive end Leonard Little said. "Two teams we had to beat."

And did beat. Doing so, and just getting into the playoffs, "was a lot of weight off our shoulders," Little said.

Better late — extremely late — than never, Right?

"We never doubted anything," tight end Cameron Cleeland said. "This team's been through turmoil. But look, (the Rams) have

been in the playoffs what? — four out of the last five years?"

Actually, five of the past six seasons.



St. Louis inebriated Pisa Tinoias-moa celebrates last Saturday's playoff victory at Seattle.

"We always believed," Cleeland said. "We just knew it."

Maybe so, but they did a good job of hiding it until after Christmas. You can call the victory over Philadelphia tainted, because the Eagles rested or pulled many of their starters.

The regular season finale with the New York Jets was an intense, playoff-like struggle. And, of course, Saturday's 27-20 victo-

ry over Seattle was a intense playoff struggle.

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"For us right now, you just wouldn't want to have a (first-round) bye," Martz said. In years past, with the experience that we had, we were at a high level going into the playoffs, and you kind of wanted to rest your guys a little bit. That's not the case now."

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Since the current 12-team playoff format began in 1990, NFL

teams have the first-round bye are 25-3 in the conference semifinals.

One of those three upset occurred last Jan. 10, when the second-seeded Rams were upset at home by eventual NFC champion Carolina, 29-23 in double overtime. The only other NFC playoff teams with first-round byes to lose in the divisional round were Chicago (to Philadelphia) in the 2001 season, and San Francisco (to Green Bay) in 1995.

All three of those losing teams were No. 2 seeds. Atlanta also is a No. 2 seed. The Falcons are 7-1 at home this season, losing only to Detroit, 17-10, in Game 5.

So it's a tough task facing the Rams. But in the joyous visitors locker room in Seattle, all things seemed possible.

"It's great just being in the locker room with all these guys," offensive guard Tom Nuten said. "It's just like a big family. We went through some adversity through the season, but it's like everybody got an extra energy boost coming into this week."

And what now?

"No holds barred," Nuten said. "We're going to go. We feel like we're peaking at just the right minute."

St. Louis (9-8) at Atlanta (11-5)

OPENING LINE — Falcons by 7.
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Rams 7-10. Falcons 14-12.
LAST WEEK — Rams led 30-27.
LAST MEETING — Falcons beat Rams 34-17 on Sept. 10, 2004 at Atlanta.
LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — First postseason meeting.
LAST WEEK'S PICK — beat Seahawks 27-20 in wild-card game. Falcons had bye, lost to Seahawks 28-26 in Week 17.
RAMS OFFENSE — OVERALL (6), RUSH (29), PASS (61).
RAMS DEFENSE — OVERALL (17), RUSH (20), PASS (27).
FALCONS OFFENSE — OVERALL (20), RUSH (11), PASS (30).
FALCONS DEFENSE — OVERALL (14), RUSH (16), PASS (27).
KEY MATCHUP — Rams' defense vs. Falcons' offense. In Week 2, Vick ran for 109 yards on 12 carries and had 179 yards passing against Rams. Vick led NFL by averaging 7.5 yards per carry and rushed for 902 yards — only 21 less than more. Rams' defense features five first-round picks, three on the line. It took most of season for unit to figure out how to stop Vick. Rams' 4-1 record since he came in. Rams' defense checked for most of wild-card game. Vick leads NFL's No. 1 rushing attack.
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Against current opponents, Falcons are 6-3, while Rams are 7-3, including playoffs. Rams' defense has 137 yards. Tony Stewart was fourth in NFL with 3,172 yards rushing, regular season. Rams' first NFL playoff game to have five consecutive 130-yard games. He had his second 100-yard game in playoffs last week, posting six catches for 108 yards and two touchdowns. He and Matt Isaac Bruce combined for most yards of any back in top three (2,619). Matt Isaac led league with 48 sacks. Rams Oline was sacked 20 times, tied for fifth most in league. Rams had league-worst 20 sacks. Atlanta was plus-2 — Falcons 28. Allen Robinson was second in regular season with 12.4-yard punt return average in regular season. Falcons' WR Warrick Dunn posted third career 1,000-yard season (1,106) with career-high nine TDs rushing.

SPORTS

Armed for the playoffs



Zama wrestlers continue their breakthrough season with a dual-meet win over Yokota, Page 44



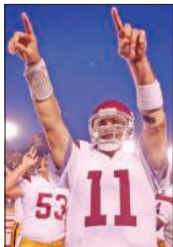
Bryant's severe ankle sprain will keep him sidelined for at least 5 games

Page 41



Unfazed by \$10,000 fine, embattled Viking shows no remorse for antics

Page 46



Heisman winner Leinart shuns NFL millions to return to USC for one more season

Page 43

Clockwise, from top left, New England's Tom Brady, Indianapolis' Peyton Manning, Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb and Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger lead their teams this weekend in the second round of the NFL playoffs. The remaining eight teams feature talented quarterbacks.

Main focus this weekend is on Foxboro

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

Is there any NFL playoff game this weekend other than the one in New England?

You wouldn't know it from the buzz surrounding Sunday's contest in Foxboro featuring MVP Peyton Manning and the Colts against the Patriots, winners of two of the past three Super Bowls and five straight games over the record-breaking quarterback.

Yes, there are eight teams in the playoffs and three other games this weekend. They are outside the spotlight, though.

"We just worry about us," says Atlanta

■ Atlanta's mercurial Vick remains the X-factor facing St. Louis, Page 47

coach Jim Mora, whose Falcons (11-5) are the NFC's second-seeded team and face visiting St. Louis on Saturday.

"Eventually we will be a blip on the radar screen. We certainly want to make sure we're on the radar screen for the right reasons if we ever do get above ground."

True enough. If there's a second game gaining attention, it's not for the right reasons. It's because Randy Moss pretended to moon Green Bay fans after scoring a touchdown last week for the Vikings, who play at Philadelphia in Sunday's early game.

Even Pittsburgh — which had the NFL's best record at 15-1 and unveiled the most successful rookie quarterback ever in Ben Roethlisberger — has been carrying a low profile as it waits for the Jets in the opening game of the weekend.

Those games build up to late Sunday afternoon for Colts-Patriots.

The rematch of last year's AFC title game pits Manning, who broke Dan Marino's season record for touchdown passes with 49, against Tom Brady, who doesn't have great statistics but has two Super Bowl rings.

The comparisons: Manning is Marino, who set tons records but never won a Super Bowl. Brady is Joe Montana, who was so cool and collected and won four championships.

But that's a bit deceptive — Manning is only 28 and has time to accumulate hardware.

"I still consider myself to be a young quarterback, believe it or not, even though quarterback years are kind of like dog years," he says

SEE PLAYOFFS ON PAGE 46

